

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 90, Issue 13 • October 19, 2000 • mcgilldaily.com • Bright eyed and bushy haired since 1911

It's No Party

Jean Charest and
The Daily's
Tyler Hargreaves
compare their weekends
at the Quebec Liberal
Convention

pg. 8 & 9



Book Fair Brouhaha • Scandal rocks Concordia Student Union • Martha Wainwright Loud and Clear

McGill Feeling the Mideast Heat

Huge Israel solidarity rally angers some Palestinian students

BY JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS
The McGill Daily

Over 1,000 people converged outside of the Shatner building last Monday to show solidarity with Israel during the current outbursts of conflict in the Middle East.

Carrying signs which read, "Arafat, stop the violence," "We want peace," and "Proud to be a Zionist," demonstrators chanted and clapped as speakers spoke of the prospects for peace and unity in Israel.

"We're here to pray for peace. We're here to pray for the victims, it doesn't matter what kind, Palestinian or Jewish," said Andrew Elbaz, a University of Montreal student who spoke at the event.

Elbaz said open lines of communication are the key to peace in the Middle East, but added that this would be difficult given the fact that even students at McGill, thousands of kilometres from the clashes, cannot calmly discuss the issues at hand.

"We must think that here at university we are all intelligent enough to be able to see both sides. But we have seen nothing but tension."

Elbaz described a demonstration organized by the Palestinian group SPHR, in which Israeli flags were burned. "In a free and democratic society, people burned the Israeli flag, said 'kill the Jews,' showed swastikas - this kind of incitement and violence must end."

Monday's rally follows a number of demonstrations which have occurred in Montreal since the intensification of violence in the Middle East.

Michael Assaraf, a U2 Physiology student and an executive at Hillel House - a Jewish student group on campus - was one of the event's organizers.

Assaraf believes that Monday's rally helped bring the Palestinian and Jewish communities in Montreal closer together.

"We made it clear that we want peace, and that all of the deaths are tragic on both sides," he said.

"We are all suffering in this situation. Peace is necessary in the [Middle East], and this is what people on all sides are looking for."

Assaraf says that after the provocations had occurred at the Palestinian demonstrations, the Jewish community could not sit back.

"We felt that we had to respond somehow, and to respond in a positive way," he said. "We're there to support Israel but we want unity and peace."



Over 1,000 showed up outside Shatner on Monday to show solidarity with Israel

But Rasha Ayouby, a Palestinian and active member of Solidarity for Palestinian Human Rights, a student club at McGill, saw things differently.

"The rally was in solidarity with Israel," she said. "But since Israel is a country which is killing my people, it seems like a contradiction to say that the

she said that SPHR did not sanction such actions.

"We don't want people to be burning flags, that's not the point of our demonstrations," she said. "But you have to understand that these people have relatives in the Middle East who have been shot, and that their emotions are beyond words."

“ We must think that here at university we are all intelligent enough to be able to see both sides. But we have seen nothing but tension. ”

rally was also for peace."

Ayouby said that while the rally may have been intended to stimulate dialogue, it served only to worsen tensions with the Palestinian community.

"Hillel is increasing agitation, not stopping it," she said. "While we [Palestinian students] are saying stop killing people, the rally [on Monday] was calling for solidarity with a state that is killing people."

Although Ayouby admits that a number of Israeli flags were burned in pro-Palestinian protests earlier in the month,

McGill Professor Rex Brynen, a specialist in Middle East Politics, is not surprised that tensions are flaring at McGill over the conflicts in Israel.

"Given the events in the Middle East, it's not terribly surprising that groups on campus have fears, and are angry, and want to express their views, and want to affect government policy," he said.

Nevertheless, Brynen says that the two sides have to move past their own anger, and strive towards finding an acceptable settlement to the problems.

"The danger is that as people become

more upset, they get farther away from making a negotiated settlement to the conflict. We need to spend as much time thinking about moving forward as responding reflexively on what we see on the television screen."

Still, Brynen thinks that the Mideast peace process has not yet been derailed. For a deal to be struck, however, Brynen feels both parties will have to make major concessions that may be a while away.

"I think it's important that everyone has agreed that we want a peaceful resolution to the conflict. In the end this will involve the establishment of a Palestinian state, and this will involve greater security for Israel. Ultimately Palestinians and Israeli's will have to learn to live together."

Late last month, right-wing Israeli politician Ariel Sharon visited the al-Aqsa mosque compound - a holy site for both Muslims and Jews - in Jerusalem, sparking Palestinian uprisings in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli soldiers were soon after called on to halt the protests. Several hundred casualties and numerous injuries, mostly on the Palestinian side, were produced in the ensuing confrontations. The violence has continued in spite of a cease-fire agreement reached earlier this week at an emergency summit in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt.

-with files from Simon Rabinovitch

OPTOMETRIST

Students are covered for eye exams and get \$75 coverage towards eyeglasses or contacts with their Health Insurance.

• Eye Exam • Eye Glasses

• Contact Lenses

IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE ON MOST PRESCRIPTIONS

"20% off on all frames."

VALID WITH THIS AD

Dr. David Kwavnick, O.D.

1535 Sherbrooke St. W.

(corner Guy)

933-8700



The project lasts 2 1/2 months.
The experience lasts a lifetime!

Aged 18-25?

Adventurous?

Motivated?

Join an international team and travel to remote regions in Costa Rica or Guyana.

Work with local people on powerful community projects:

- ◆ Rainforest Studies
- ◆ School Construction
- ◆ Health Education
- ◆ Aqueducts & Wells

Learn valuable new career skills in leadership, team-work, communication and another language.

Call NOW for information!

telephone 416.504.3370
web site www.yci.org

YOUTH CHALLENGE INTERNATIONAL

LaCité
NETTOYEUR—CLEANERS

Student
Discounts
Same Day Service
Tailor on
Premises
Open Sundays

Richard Bookman
PRESIDENT

3590 Jeanne Mance



Hollywood

Music

Fashion

Adventure

www.myfw.com

Enter online
to WIN a

ford focus
expect more



Massive Fraud Rocks Concordia

\$196,000 embezzled from Concordia Student Union

BY SIMON RABINOVITCH
The McGill Daily

The Concordia Student Union was badly shaken yesterday after criminal charges were laid in connection with a shocking internal fraud. The fraud is believed to be one of the worst corruption incidents to ever befall a student association at a Canadian university.

On Oct. 4, CSU President Rob Green discovered that approximately \$196,000 had disappeared from the Student Union's account. Upon making the discovery, Green and the CSU retained the services of a forensic accountant and proceeded to suspend the individual suspected of perpetrating the fraud. Montreal police authorities refuse to reveal the person's identity while their investigation is ongoing, but it is widely believed that a high-ranking member of the CSU's executive is the lone suspect.

"We can't believe the extent of the breach of trust suffered by the entire University community, especially our members," said Green.

The students, faculty and administrators of Concordia were dismayed to learn that an elected student representative was being blamed for bilking the CSU out of such a large amount of money.

"We are very disturbed by this news," said Dean of Students Donald Boisvert. "The CSU, by nature of its charter, has the responsibility of managing funds that students entrust to them. This trust has been broken by those responsible for the fraud."

Sergeant Detective Ronald Charbonneau of the Montreal Urban Community Police Department's Financial Fraud Section took over the case after the CSU's forensic accountant filed a complaint on behalf of the Student Union. The charges are the first step in the investigation that is expected to be completed by the end of November.

The CSU's annual income usually amounts to about \$1-million. In spite of the devastating loss, the Student Union hopes to avoid making any budgetary cuts that would hurt any of its student clubs or services.

Preliminary discussions have been held with Concordia administrators to arrange for financing to replace the stolen funds. In the meantime, CSU officials are looking into preventative measures to ensure that there will not be a repeat of the offence.

"Looking forward, we are focusing on strategies for recovery, using all legal means to our disposal," said Green. "The executive's new priority for the remainder of this year will be, of course, to set up stricter financial controls to prevent this from ever happening again."

Dean Boisvert echoed the CSU President's sentiments.

"We expect the CSU to identify and account for the stolen funds and to put in place solid accounting and verification methods to prevent any re-occurrence of financial mismanagement," said Boisvert. "The University will offer the CSU its help and expertise in dealing with the situation."

Both police investigators and CSU officials refused to elaborate any further on the details of the fraud or the suspect's identity.

Bibliophiles Go Bananas

for Annual Book Bonanza

BY RACHEL APPLEBAUM
News Writer

The 29th annual McGill book fair began at 9 am sharp yesterday in Redpath Hall. From as early as three hours beforehand, eager book dealers, McGill Alumni, and students lined up along the staircase inside the hall, and out into the pouring rain.

The two-day fair, which is jointly sponsored by the McGill Women's Alumnae Association and The Women Associates of McGill, raises money for scholarships and bursaries.

A wide variety of books, ranging in genre from paperback versions of literary classics, to Danielle Steel novels, as well as books in French and other foreign languages, are for sale this year. Most of the books sell for a couple of dollars, although some art books and first editions for sale in the basement level of the hall were priced as high as \$70.

The fair was launched in the early 1970s by a group of female alumnae, and wives of McGill professors. Some of the volunteers work on organizing the fair for up to 65 days a year. Books are donated by individuals or estates to nine Montreal locations, and are then sorted and selected for sale by the volunteers.

"We try and screen what we sell," said Jane Hood, who is in charge of this year's fair. Underlined or dated books are discarded. After the sale, whatever is left is offered to Montreal charities.

Over the years, attendance at the fair has become a tradition for many people not only in Montreal, but from all over Canada and the United States. For the owners of some of Montreal's most prominent bookstores, coming to the fair is not only a chance to find extremely cheap books, but



Lit lovers pour over selections at McGill's legendary book fair

an opportunity to mingle and socialize with their competitors in the business.

The fair has become famous as much for the books sold, as for the means people have gone to find special books.

Waiting for the sale to begin yesterday morning, a number of Montreal bookstore owners spoke, only half jokingly, about the violence that has erupted at the beginning of past fairs.

"Ten years ago, three or four people ended up with contusions," remembered a man named Svenson, who owns the downtown bookstore Ex Libris. "We take no prisoners," he added with a laugh.

At two minutes before 9, the crowd began to visibly tense. People picked up their empty cardboard boxes and stopped chatting with their neighbors.

"Watch out! Some of these guys are vicious!" Someone yelled from the crowd

on the stairs.

Yet, when the doors were opened by two volunteers, there was no violence, only a rush of people holding bags and cardboard boxes, making a dash for the tables. A few minutes later things settled down and a quiet fell over the hall as people got busy looking for books.

Regulars noted that less people are coming to the fair each year, and the quality of the books has decreased. Some attribute this to the exodus of Anglophones from Montreal in recent years. But Adrian King, owner of The Word, a used bookstore in the McGill ghetto, noted that book fairs everywhere aren't what they used to be for dealers.

"People are probably keeping more books than they used to," he said.

The 29th annual McGill Book Fair wraps up tonight at 9 pm in Redpath Hall.

le château
OUTLET

Semi-annual MIDNIGHT MADNESS SALE

Thousands of items at unbelievable prices
(Friday October 27th, 2000 9:00 am to midnight)



5225 Jean-Talon west



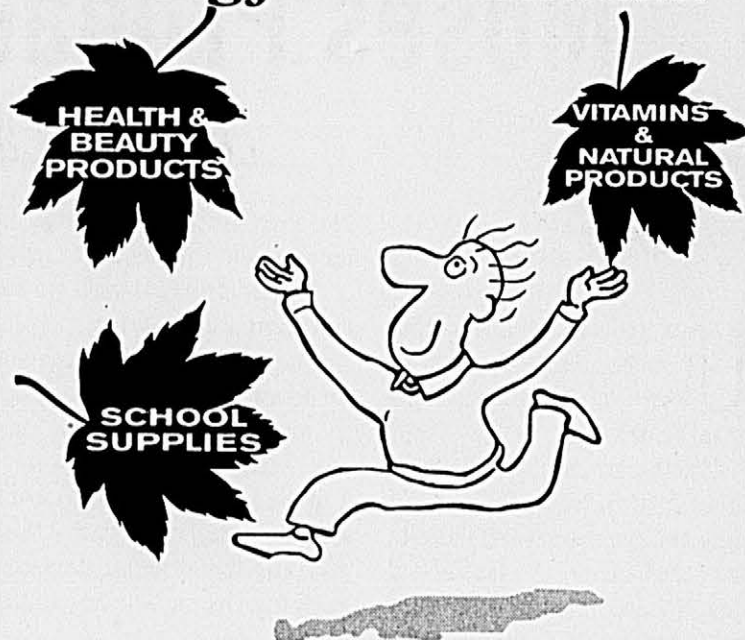
5158 Blvd. St-Laurent



4119 Jean-Talon east

UNIPRIX

We have what you're
looking for this autumn!



3 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

- 1455 Peel St. Metro Level 843-7117
Les Cours Mont-Royal

- 2020 University 284-0266
Pres. Kennedy, Metro Level

- 3575 Park Ave. 849-6176
Corner Prince Arthur
Galeries du Parc (La Cite)



EDDY BISHARA PHARMACY

Students Unite Against Free Trade

Student group questions pan-American free trade deal

BY RACHEL DEMPSEY
Staff Writer

In April, leaders from most countries in the Western Hemisphere will be gathering in Quebec City to discuss a proposal for liberalized trade, and McGill students have already begun to mobilize in opposition.

They fear that the Free Trade Area of Americas (FTAA) may leave Canada powerless to combat skyrocketing tuition fees, privatization of fresh water and the outlawing of Medicare. While April's Summit of the Americas is still far away, students have banded together to form FTAA-Alert McGill. The activist group will spend the next few months organizing discussions and workshops for students concerned about the free trade agreement and plans on joining thousands of other individuals and groups from across Canada and North America in demonstrations at the spring Summit.

"Corporations, bosses, and the filthy rich are those who will profit from the Free

who have concerns about quality education, labour, health care, the environment, women's rights, and colour issues.

"Since the FTAA attacks all these areas of public interest, it's an unusual opportunity for us to respond in a united front."

The grassroots movement has picked up speed quickly and has now joined forces with other organizations on campus. FTAA-Alert serves as an umbrella group for concerned student groups such as the Women's Union, the NDP and the International Socialists, and now has over 60 members of its own. Due to its diverse membership, the group's mandate is broadly defined. The group wishes "to inform students and to look forward to mobilizing students to go to the rally in Quebec City," said Liertz.

Not everyone who belongs to FTAA-Alert will join the Summit of the Americas protest and the leaders of the activist group must attempt to cater to the wide array of members.

"It is important to point out students are coming from different perspectives," said Pauline Hwang, a member of the internal logistics com-



April's FTAA protests will likely resemble the demonstrations at the OAS meeting this summer

Hwang said that a further concern is that "the FTAA, among other free trade agreements, is a way of further entrenching capitalism."

The FTAA-Alert leaders hope to avoid any internal dissension in their group which might alienate possible supporters of their cause. Liertz is confident that members will find that they can be as moderate or as radical as they want to be. "If people want to get involved to reform the FTAA that's fine and if they want to mobilize against it that's fine too," said Liertz.

Students, in particular, have been instrumental in mounting opposition campaigns against free trade agreements over the past 15 years. The FTAA protests will be no different. Hwang believes that it is natu-

ral for students to be heavily involved, since they may potentially have a lot at stake.

"What students have in common is education and there are many ways in which free trade can and does affect education," said Hwang. Because the FTAA negotiations are incomplete, it is still uncertain how it will deal with numerous issues, including education. Depending on how education is defined by the agreement, countries may wind up losing control over their school systems, she says.

"With the FTAA, it is not certain whether there will be a distinction between government services and non-government-provided services," said Hwang. "Free trade may already be harming education because it defines it in market terms and

once a service gets defined as commercial, it can't go back to being governmental."

One of the most problematic consequences of focusing the agreement on economic concerns is that many government policies may be considered "barriers to trade." Hwang and Liertz say that if foreign corporations mount challenges on this basis under the FTAA, member countries could find laws on educational standards, regulations favouring public institutions, and qualification standards for professionals threatened.

"The FTAA will give corporations special rights that no country or citizen can claim," said Liertz. "Nations won't be able to protect their people or environment anymore if their laws are deemed barriers to trade."

-with files from Zach Dubinsky

“The FTAA, among other free trade agreements, is a way of further entrenching capitalism.”

Trade Area of the Americas," said Sylvia Liertz, a third-year English student.

Liertz has been involved with FTAA-Alert since its inception this summer as "coalition of students and community members

mittee. "Some are mostly mainly just interested in learning more about [the FTAA]. Others are concerned that these decisions can override our domestic government regulations and are undemocratic."

Moses Probably Existed: McGill Prof

Levy looks at life and times of biblical hero

BY ROBERTO ROCHA
News Writer

Upon returning from his first school lesson ever about Moses, a son was asked by his father to report on what he had learned.

"The teacher said that after being chased across the Red Sea by the Egyptian forces, Moses, armed only with a bazooka, took out all the enemy's tanks and gunships, freeing the Hebrews from slavery."

The shocked father demanded, "Did your teacher really tell you that?"

"No," said the boy, "but if I told you what he taught, you'd never believe me."

And so the factuality of the Bible remains a mystery even today. That is the point that Professor Barry Levy, McGill's Dean of Religious Studies, made Tuesday night to the St. James Literary Society at the Faculty Club. A specialist in Jewish interpretation of the Bible, Prof. Levy spoke about the possibility of certain parts of the Bible being works of fiction.

"About 10 to 15 per cent of the Bible is absolutely historical," said Levy. "Another

10 to 15 per cent cannot be historical. The remaining 70 to 80 per cent is up for grabs."

The story of the Exodus falls into that last category, according to Levy.

"One could argue convincingly that the Hebrew Bible contains passages that are better understood as fiction," said Levy. "A description of a talking snake or a talking donkey is an example. So if it were possible to demonstrate that Moses didn't exist, then all the narratives about Moses would have to be understood allegorically."

Is the Exodus fiction? "It doesn't matter," said Levy. "If you could really demonstrate that the story of Moses is not true, it would have no more import than if it was proven that the Creation story as presented didn't happen that way."

Is it possible to determine if Moses was real or not? The fact remains that Moses is not mentioned in any other contemporary Egyptian or Hebrew texts, though this is the same for many other biblical characters.

"The question is, are [the stories of Moses] believable? If the stories are not believable, they could still be legendary

accounts of the man. But if they are believable, it doesn't mean they took place. We can only look at the accounts and see what we can learn from them."

In investigating the old testament, Levy finds it helpful to look at the ten plagues, the major theme in the Book of Exodus. Levy believes that some of the plagues perfectly resemble natural phenomena, while others do not.

It is written in Exodus that the Nile river turned into blood with the first plague. The Egyptians frequently used the Nile for many of their activities and it has been posited that the river became contaminated over time, colouring it red.

"Some people have suggested that it was actually some form of algae that polluted the Nile," related Levy.

The second plague was frogs, the third lice; the fourth vermin and the fifth boils, a progression that some say points to environmental degradation.

"Many people have pointed out that if you pollute the water, its resident amphibians leave the water and shortly die thereafter. As a result of decaying bodies lying



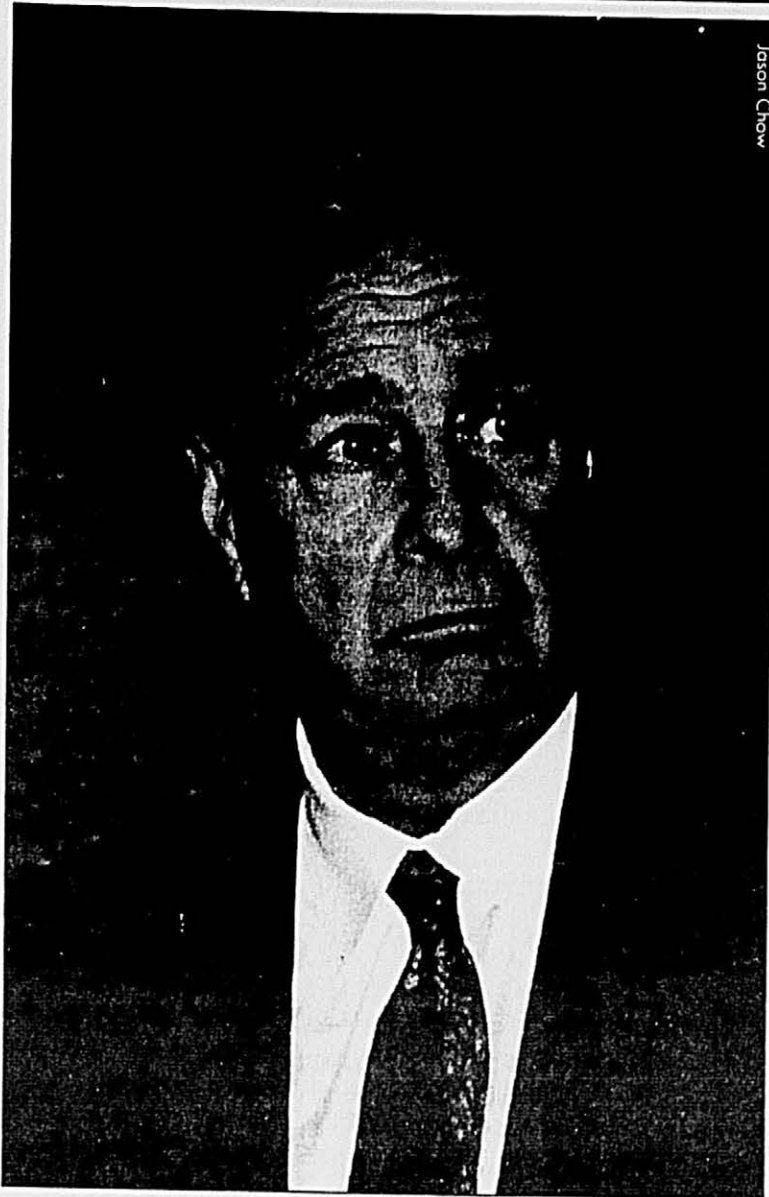
Religious Studies Dean Barry Levy at the Faculty Club Tuesday

around, you're likely to have a lot of vermin, and that means disease, the described boils and so forth. And so one can argue that the first six plagues were really only one."

So does all this mean that Moses really existed?

"In the end, I won't be able to give you an answer other than, probably," said Levy.

"Stay tuned, keep reading about new discoveries about Moses, for it may turn out that we will one day confirm that Moses really did exist. Or if he did not, we'll be left with an ancient legend that a leader was created to teach people some lessons, and ultimately it's the lessons that are important, and not the question of whether Moses existed."



Paul Martin's mini-budget made waves in Ottawa yesterday

Student Lobby Groups Unhappy with Mini-budget

BY DARREN STEWART
CUP, Ottawa Bureau Chief

Opposition leaders and lobby groups are unhappy with the way finance minister Paul Martin chose to distribute the largest surplus in Canadian history, saying there's not enough attention paid towards dealing with rising student debt.

Yesterday afternoon, Martin announced a \$12.3-billion surplus for this year and a mini-budget that included new spending focused on tax cuts and federal debt reduction.

Progressive Conservative leader Joe Clark, criticized the Liberals for releasing what he called a "political document" in the days before calling Canadians to the polls.

"This is obviously nothing but an election budget," he said. "If there had not been an election there would not have been a mini-budget."

Clark was critical of government spending priorities, saying they give too much to the rich.

"There's nothing in this budget to help low-income Canadians and there's nothing at all to help students coming out of

university," said Clark.

Alexa McDonough, leader of the federal NDP, agreed that the budget was too focused on breaks for high-income earners.

"When you have massive tax cuts going to the wealthy - who need it least - it's clear that you have misplaced priorities."

She said minor tax relief on the lower end of the income scale was overdue, although Canadians are still feeling the pinch from cuts the government has made in the past seven years.

"Instead of choosing to cut child poverty, instead of cutting pollution to air and water, instead of cutting the debt burden of students, they chose to cut taxes in a very big way for those who don't need them."

McDonough also criticized the massive federal debt repayment the government is undertaking this year.

"They've put \$10-million down on the debt, but they've completely ignored the growing debt burden of, for example, students who are struggling and struggling to get by," she said.

Martin responded to the concerns by contrasting his party with the Canadian Alliance.

"If you look closely, the majority of the Alliance cuts are for those making more than \$60,000 a year, while the majority of ours are for those making less than \$60,000."

But Jim Turk, executive director of the Canadian Association of University Teachers, disagreed.

"The Alliance doesn't need to get elected because their policies were just put into place by Paul Martin."

Turk said that Martin's offerings for education, which focus on giving more money to innovation and research and giving tax-breaks to income-earning students, help those in higher income brackets the most and don't address the real problems.

"You don't build a new economy by cutting taxes," he said. "This only helps well-to-do students who are coming from wealthy families. We would have preferred to see some real debt relief for students and more social spending."

Michael Conlon, national chair of the Canadian Federation of Students, agreed that the budget ignored the needs of low-income students.

"Students who are in danger of incurring the largest debt are not going to be helped by these tax cuts at all."

He said that the doubling of the tax exemption for students was the one minor piece of new information in an otherwise unsurprising budget.

"The rest of the budget is a tax giveaway to the wealthiest Canadians. We're very disappointed because we thought there would be at least something to address student debt."

Conlon was also hoping Martin would restore some of the social transfer payments to the provinces that were cut in 1994.

"What we got today will do nothing to

address the cuts to education funding," he said. "They have Cadillac research programs but they're not taking care of the basic elements."

Many opposition members called the mini-budget announcement today a misplaced political platform aimed at raising the profile of the governing party and deflecting attention from the Auditor-General's report released yesterday on the "billion dollar boondoggle."

Prime Minister Jean Chrétien is expected to announce an election on Nov. 27.

Budget Highlights

EDUCATION NUMBERS:

- A doubling of the amount students are able to claim on their taxes each month from \$200 to \$400, effective Jan. 1, 2001, to help offset the cost of books, lodging and other expenses.

- This will amount to approximately \$1-billion spread among more than one million students over the next five years.

- \$100-million over the next five years to the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council "to support research for the knowledge economy."

- \$500-million for The Canada Foundation for Innovation.

FOR LOW INCOME CANADIANS:

- The lowest tax bracket will pay 16 per cent down from 17 per cent effective January, 2001.

- Low and modest income Canadians get a \$125 per individual or \$250 per family one-time rebate to deal with home heating expenses, which have risen recently.

- Effective July 2001, the Canada Child Tax Benefit for low- and middle-income Canadians will be raised, with maximum benefits for the first child, rising to more than \$2,500 by 2004.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

- Predicted average federal surplus of \$10.9-billion per year over the next six years (taking into account health and early childhood development, and employment insurance changes).

- At least \$10-billion in debt to be payed off this fiscal year.

Paul Martin Cancels Montreal Talk, Citing Security Fears

Canadian Finance Minister's Concordia appearance scrapped after months of anticipation

By JON BRICKER
The McGill Daily

A visit by Canada's Finance Minister to Concordia University was suddenly called off yesterday by ministry officials who say they were worried about student protesters that were planning to greet the minister.

The speaking event was planned for tomorrow evening in conjunction with a meeting of the G-20 that will bring IMF and World Bank officials and finance ministers from across the globe to Montreal next week.

"The finance ministry called me at 10 o'clock this morning and asked if I could guarantee that this event would go off without any difficulty. By 11 o'clock, they had called back to say things were cancelled altogether," said Derek MacCuish yesterday. MacCuish had organized the event for the Social Justice Committee of Montreal.

"They said there were security risks and that Mr. Martin is a busy man," MacCuish explained. "But as far as I'm concerned, neither excuse is good enough. Meeting the Canadian public to talk about globalization should take priority over whatever he had to

do. He committed to this months ago."

Martin's office failed to return The Daily's calls for comment yesterday.

Phil Ilijevski, Chair of the Canadian Federation of Students' Quebec arm, said the decision to cancel tomorrow's speaking event clearly shows that Martin is afraid to own up to the federal Liberals' underfunding of education.

"Paul Martin is afraid of students," exclaimed Ilijevski. "I guess he was afraid someone was going to pie him or throw chocolate milk at him like Stockwell Day. He was afraid that, going into a federal election, he'd get bad press."

Ilijevski said a number of students had planned a vocal protest surrounding the event. They also had plans to challenge Martin's records on globalization and education.

In Ottawa yesterday, Martin presented a mini-budget, which many called a shot for him to throw around billions in surplus dollars to garner support for an election expected next month.

According to Ilijevski, yesterday's hand-outs offered little for education and gave students more reason to be angry.

"It really wasn't much at all," he said.

"Paul Martin needs to own up."

MacCuish said the Liberals also need to address concerns about their role in globalization bodies like the G-20.

"Everywhere you look, people are concerned about globalization," MacCuish said. "People definitely have a right to protest. In fact, I'd encourage it."

A slew of demonstrations are already planned to surround next week's summit, he said.

Beginning Monday, Montreal will play host to the G-20 which brings together finance officials from 19 different countries as well as the IMF and World Bank. Ministers from China, Thailand, and Brazil are expected as is US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

"This is the power-folk getting together to tinker with the world economy," said MacCuish. "Of course protesters are going to be there too."

According to Ilijevski, international agreements like those being struck by the G-20, often call on the Canadian government to cut investment in public education.

"Students have a lot to be worried about too," he said.

THE MCGILL DAILY

Volume 90 Number 13

1911 **90** years 2001

editorial offices:

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-03,
Montreal QC, H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6784, fax: 514.398.8318
www.mcgilldaily.com
editors@mcgilldaily.com

business and advertising office:

3480 McTavish St., Rm. B-07, Montreal
QC, H3A 1X9
phone: 514.398.6790, fax: 514.398.8318
ads@mcgilldaily.com

co-ordinating editor:

BEN ERRETT

co-ordinating news editor:

JAIME KIRZNER-ROBERTS

news editors:

JON BRICKER, SIMON RABINOVITCH

co-ordinating culture editor:

TYLER HARGREAVES

culture editors:

JEAN EDELSTEIN, J. KELLY NESTRUCK

production and design editors:

SALLY WARNER, JAMES YAP

photo editors:

BRIE O'KEEFE, PIERRE-ALAIN PARFOND

contributors:

RACHEL APPLEBAUM, RACHEL DEMPSEY, STEVE
BARKER, ROBERTO ROCHA, MATTHEW SHEREN,
MARK YOUNG, ZANDER ROSS, XAVIER GAGNÉ,
ADRIENNE LACIAVELLE, JONATHAN MONTPETIT,
BARTÉKOMOROWSKI

cover design:

TYLER HARGREAVES, SALLY WARNER

délit français:

PHILIPPINE DE T'SERGLAES

business manager:

MARIAN SCHRIER

assistant business manager:

PIERRE BOUILLON

advertising management:

SASHA DECHENE, BORIS SHEDOV

advertising layout and design:

CAMERON CAMPBELL

All contents © 2000 Daily Publications
Society. All rights reserved. The content of
this newspaper is the responsibility of The
McGill Daily and does not necessarily represent
the views of McGill University or the
Students' Society of McGill University.
Products or companies advertised in this
newspaper are not necessarily endorsed by
Daily staff.

Printed by Payette & Simms,
Montreal, Quebec.

The Daily is a founding member of the
Canadian University Press and
Presse étudiante du Québec.

Printed on 20% recycled paper.
ISSN 1192-4608

The McGill Daily welcomes letters to the
editor and comments from readers on our
Commentary pages. Send them to
letters@mcgilldaily.com. The Daily reserves
the right to edit for length, clarity, and poten-
tial libellous content.

Activists, Radicals, Pseudo-Socialists... Pinklings All



BY JACK TENG

If you are part of the average uninformed population, you are likely unaware that the G-20 meeting is taking place this month here in Montreal, on the 20th of this week. Now that you do know about it, you will have one of two reactions: either your eyes will glaze over and your brain will start playing your favorite show tune or you will get incredibly riled up and, much to your surprise, angry chants and slogans will start spewing out of your mouth. If Seattle and Prague are to be any kind of template for things to come, we should expect the same demonstrations, the same anti-institution/globalization/corporation sentiment and, of course, the same transformation of our city into a frightening police state. Stockpile your weed, friends. Chances are, our honest-to-God dealers might get roped in with rabble rousers under one massive sweep previous the G-20 meet. For this pointless disruption of our peace, we have only to thank those angry little upstarts with their vinegar-soaked napkins and hempen clothing.

By Marx and Mao's ghosts! To think that this is what activism has been reduced to! Mindless protests, flashy banners and large papier-mâché puppets of scowling corn. These days to be slated as an "anarchist" is synonymous with being politically incoherent and to be a "socialist" simply rouses feelings of nostalgia. Not so long ago activism meant more than traveling a few kilometres away from cushy homes to "tough it out" in the grand cause of humanity - albeit temporarily. Revolution meant setting buildings on fire, training in guerrilla warfare in the deserts of Libya... not chaining oneself to trees or going on hippiesque outings to train in the finer arts of "peaceful demonstration" involving more tying up (if this were in any other context it be interesting!) and wall climbing. To be a revolutionary was a life-long commitment, not a faddy past-time to get a chance to puff up in righteous indignation. To be a radical meant more than hav-

ing a half-life of a few hours. Perhaps this would have been so when political awareness meant poring over Marx and when student societies meant working with the labour unions instead of being lackeys. All we've left today of revolution and revolutionaries, at least in our affluent North-America, are sound-bites and background static.

Is there anything genuine going on there? Are there any who do not rely on the knowledge they glean from catch phrases like "Globalization is Bad, man!" "Big Corporations are Bad, man!" "Free the Third World from Big, Bad Multi-National Corporations, man!" "Debt forgiveness to the Third World, man!" "Down with GMO, man!" "Go for the all-natural, man!" and so on? To be perfectly fair, there may be the rare few with anything significant to say, but much to their dismay, they will be drowned in a sea of apish ranting. A sign of the times, I suppose. How amusing that the very people that demonstrate against the evils of the world are the very same who cause it.

It is they (all of us, in fact) who make all this happen with our ridiculous consumption that creates the markets for sweat-shop made designer clothes, not to mention hair dyes and perfumes extracted from various animal body parts. The very affluence that allows us the luxury of "moral superiority" causes everyone else to live in shit holes and survive off a few bucks a month. A point in fact: debt forgiveness for the third world. An excellent idea, of course, but does anyone know what it implies? It's not just erasing ledgers or throwing away IOUs. Some smiling banker doesn't just make money disappear; it has to come from somewhere. That would be us. Precisely what percentage of the population would be willing to pay taxes to help out some loser country they've never even heard of?

Nothing will come of the protests this Friday except some broken windows. We will remain in the status quo only until we shake our appetite for gas-guzzling SUVs, spur-of-the-moment shopping, useless gadgets and everything else we associate with our comfortable lives. Of your average student activist, we have come to this: one so pure and innocent (read: uninformed and gullible) that they're pristinely white and such a pathetic shade of socialistic red that they're downright pink, and yet so minuscule and ineffectual to be anything more than a stunted aberration... I dub thee: pinkling.

Forget Jews or Palestinians - Let's Blame the British!



BY BEN AVRAHAM

Much has been said recently about the Hillel Student Society's ad on the back page of the Daily, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in general. In order to dispense with the hooplah that surrounds trying to determine one's bias on this issue, let me first say that I am Jewish, if that matters.

I must take issue with Jeff Webber's letter to The Daily on October 16th, in which he refers to the Hillel ad as "propaganda," followed by, in the nature of a true hypocrite, anti-Israeli propaganda. Webber completely fails to mention the propaganda on the numerous pro-Palestinian flyers seen around campus that equate the current situation with deliberate "ethnic cleansing."

That minor point being made, I would like to remind all of you of a trend in this "debate" that Jeff Webber's idiotic letter plays into. I won't win any friends on an English speaking North American college campus by saying this, but I'm a bit too angry to care about that right now.

I would like all of you, the proud flag bearers of the "liberal tradition" of University students, to remember one thing as you try to point fingers of blame over this Israeli conflict. There is no question whose fault these "50 Years of Strife" are. Great Britain. In case there's any doubt: England is, without question, the most barbaric nation in the history of the world. Who's to blame for the current situation? The moronic British colonial establishment, who promise all things to all people. They screwed over Palestine, India, and the rest of the 1/3 of the earth's surface that they unjustly stole. England created problems for these nations that may very well never be solved.

I don't give this history lesson without purpose. The current spewing of sophomoric opinions from the WASP dominated Canadian/American media, foolish political science students, and yes,

indeed, the general citizenship of these nations is a form of neo-imperialism that cannot be tolerated. The condescending and self-deifying "rational and calculated" opinions offered by those such as Mr. Webber insult both the Jewish and Palestinian students of this school. You Anglos and culturally-Anglos may click your tongues and shake your heads at the "barbarism" being displayed between Israel and the Palestinians or the Indians and the Pakistanis, or whoever happens to be in a conflict at the moment. You're so "rational," why can't the Jews and Muslims behave with the civility that you do? The "we-know-better" opinions being offered during this "open discourse" by Western liberals is nothing more than the 21st century version of proudly singing "Rule Britannia!" And you're not fooling anyone.

My opinion on the current situation in Israel is not terribly relevant to this argument. Let's just say I'm not terribly pro or anti-Zionist, and recognize that petty nationalism rhetoric and outright malicious behaviour have taken place on both sides. But I do, however, know one thing. Despite our differences at a horrible time such as this, let me offer you a suggestion on behalf of all like-minded Jews and Palestinians, as well as Indians, Pakistanis, Africans, Native Americans, and every other victim of British imperialism and the British/British-American legacy of imperialism known as political condescension and baseless moral superiority. If I have not been the first to say this to you, let me be the most adamant: Go fuck yourselves. Your opinions are not appreciated. Your removed, holier-than-thou questions to Jews and Arabs of "What do you think of the Israeli situation?" are insulting. You and your bullshit British gentile and racist philosophies are more and more a thing of the past, and are entirely irrelevant.

So, as you ponder if the Jews stole Palestine from the Arabs or if the Arabs stole Zion from the Jews, glad to be safe in your civilized Canadian homes that you stole from Native Americans, please remember one thing as you make your deliberations. As you try to determine if it's the Israelis or Palestinians who are responsible to clean up this mess, please try not to forget that it's your granddaddies that spilled the milk.

ROOMMATES by John Paul Koning



comics@mcgilldaily.com

letters



HILLEL'S RESPONSE JUSTIFIED

I read with interest the responses to the Hillel ad recently in The Daily. I totally agree that it (intentionally or unwittingly) labeled the entire Palestinian community as having engaged in incitement. That was regrettable. But realistically, we should acknowledge that locally and internationally, the Arab cause has been more vigorously pushed at all levels than the Israeli cause. The Palestinian people have a right to be heard, but before we condemn the Israeli community for responding using paid advertisements, we have to understand that they too have the right of response. The exposure of the public at large to the just one side of the story, I think is more dangerous than a paid advertisement. Hear a thing often enough and you come to believe that it represents the whole truth.

Surprisingly, more voices have been raised questioning Hillel's response instead of asking why they needed to respond at all. If no one was burning Israeli flags in the streets, one might question the need to respond at all. It seems to be the fashionable thing nowadays to condemn Israel. This does not say much for us. As people attending an institution of higher learning, let us not naively think that victims exist only on one side. Let us remember that everyone involved in the conflict is a victim and that calls for a peaceful resolution exist on both sides. Let us remember that the single biggest move towards resolution this year came from the Israeli government in its withdrawal from Lebanon (which greatly reflected the wishes of community groups, eg the mothers of soldiers at the Lebanese front).

The best thing to do now and hereafter is to view events evenly. This has to start somewhere. What better place to start this change than at a temple of learning?

Harveen Singh Narulla
3rd Year Law

COMMENTARY WAS BAD

J. Nestruck's commentary ("Ad was Bad", Oct. 16, 2000) is flawed for several reasons. The aforementioned writer of this article enumerated some problems with the Hillel ad run in last week's Daily. Presently, I will enumerate critiques in response to his grievances.

1) The advertisement was not disguised as an article. Firstly, since when does the Daily print articles (especially ones that are controversial in nature) on the back page? Second, the Hillel logo was clearly visible, clarifying that was indeed an ad. More importantly, however, the elitist Nestruck assumes that McGill students would erroneously assume that something that was so obviously an ad, was an article.

2) How do you determine what is and is not propaganda? Were The McGill Daily's articles defending the newspaper's position in the lease dispute propaganda because it represented one side of the story? Was the ad for a certain opometrist, for example, propaganda? Any article or ad propagates one view or another to some extent.

3) Last I read, J. Nestruck was a Culture Editor. Since when has it been in his discretion to decide which ads are allowed and which are not allowed to run? Isn't that up to your advertising management?

4) You think that not running an ad in The McGill Daily would have diffused some of the tension between Israelis and Palestinians? You are dreaming!

Although you are entitled to your opinion, in response to "Ad was Bad," I say fittingly, "Commentary was bad."

Emile Amzallag
U1 Physiology

[Ed. Note: -The McGill Daily editorial board has discretionary powers over

advertising content.]

LET'S DEBATE THE FACTS

Reaction to the ad placed by the Jewish Students' Union in the Daily of 16 October is worthy in itself of some response

Among the principle objections to Hillel's ad is the assertion that the opinion expressed was a form of 'propaganda' on the basis that it was 'one sided,' and portrayed 'a particular political viewpoint.'

The ad in question identified the desecration of two holy sites, condemned both events and compared local reaction to the two lamentable occurrences. To claim that this is propagandistic as it represents only 'one side of the story' is to make the dangerous assertion that for every statement, a dissenting opinion must be proposed as equally valid- and true. Such an assertion would lead to the accusation that Galileo was 'one sided' in his works, because he did not admit that geocentrism was as valid as heliocentrism.

The ad in question was certainly worthy of criticism for its failure to identify the desecration of the Israeli flag and Jewish symbols as the acts of Hate it so strongly denounced.

I do not doubt that the JSU recognizes the fundamental right of SPHR and all students to their own beliefs and modes of expression. Nor do I doubt their commitment to tolerance, reconciliation, recognition and cooperation among Jews and Palestinians in Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, Montreal and around the world.

During the present time of tension and strife, whatever its cause and whatever its outcome, both communities must recognize that we are destined to be neighbours, that we have for four thousand years been cousins and that one day we may again be brothers. It would be irresponsible for either side to simply forget the past. It would be catastrophic for either to forget the future.

Both 'sides' will continue to argue over present and past wrongs they feels have been perpetrated against them. Both will be one-sided, and often only one will be right. Let it be for us, however, to construct and maintain an environment in which we may debate the facts together, that we may together reap the benefits of a true

and lasting peace.

David Mader
UO Arts

HYPOCRISY AND IRONY

In the October 16, 2000 issue, I was disappointed with the hypocrisy and irony that was conveyed. The entire sixth page was dedicated to the reactions to Hillel's ad; and all were negative. Ironically, the letters to the editor and comment section were unanimously condemning the one-sidedness of the Hillel ad on the back cover of the newspaper. The articles, including a comment from one of the cultural editors of the paper, agree that there is no journalistic merit in printing only one position on any given topic, but doesn't the unanimity of the criticism do just that? This agreement leads to the conclusion that the ad was negative and can only be interpreted as such, which is not the case. The cultural editor accuses the advertisement to have been "disguised as a newspaper article." This can be refuted by proving false another statement, which asserted " 'In this spirit, the incitement...must end' was the most prominent sentence on the page" when, in fact, the most outstanding words were "Hillel Jewish Student Centers of Montreal." Hillel's logo was also on the bottom of the page, adding to the clarity concerning who was responsible for it.

It should have been obvious that Hillel was behind that ad on the back cover of the Daily, but I now must wonder who was behind putting the six devout Muslims on the front cover of The McGill Daily the following issue?

Not that there is anything wrong with showing their images on the cover, but why are religious Jews or any Israelis excluded from the cover? Isn't that a little one-sided? The phrasing under the paper's title "Looking for a homeland since 1911" seems to beg for the question: Where are the journalistic values that your paper deems so pure and meaningful?

Daniel Ehbrenfeld
U1 Political Science

DOUGLAS ARTICLE UNFOUNDED

As a McGill graduate and one-time contributor to your publication, I read your recent story speculating that Dominica's late Prime Minister Roosevelt Douglas was the victim of "foul-play" with great dismay. The story is a clear-cut example of shoddy and irresponsible reporting.

I'm currently a correspondent for The Associated Press working in the Caribbean and can assure you that Douglas died of heart attack - foul play was never a consideration.

On the day of Douglas' death The Associated Press reported that medical examiner Dr. Gregorio Monterrey said Douglas' body showed "symptoms of a heart attack" and he had ruled out any kind of attack or poisoning.

Within a week an independent pathologist had confirmed the cause of death as a heart attack.

Yet, instead of contacting the relevant authorities and printing a responsible story, The McGill Daily saw fit to quote Eddy Lambert, an executive of Douglas' governing Labor Party, as saying "there are numerous rumours circulating. People find it strange and want to make sure that there wasn't any foul play."

Since when did journalists start including rumors in their stories? Give me a break. Is this the best McGill students can expect from their press?

Your story does great disservice to a man who shed his roots in Dominica's planter class to fight colonialism in the Caribbean and Africa.

Did you know Douglas once helped smuggle black South Africans to Libya for military training? He used his government position to pass them off as Dominicans. That's courage. An obituary highlighting Douglas' remarkable life would have respected such a legacy. Instead you chose to sensationalize his death.

Matthew Rosenberg, BA 1996
Jamaica Correspondent
The Associated Press

COMICS ROCK THE DUCK

This is just to say that I am very pleased to see the return of comics as a regular feature in your publication. Since the end of my collaboration as a McGill staff member in the late 1990's, I was a little bit sad not to see the regular works of cartoonists and comics artists at The Daily. So it is a great joy for me to see the flame revived. Keep on the good works, folks!

Jane Tremblay
Former comic artist ("Power Trip")
for The Daily

McLOUSE by Steve Barker



Hey Kids! McLOUSE here to let you know that I'll be taking a break for a while. In my place, Titans of Literature battling famous movie monsters is back. Today's grisly installment...

SALMAN
RUSHDIE

SLAMP
THING

Take out a
Fatwa on this,
you huak of
slime!



Slibel & Lander

Them books
is deadly!

Your forum for all the latest campus scoops

Slibel was among the nutbars who lined up in the cold rain yesterday to snatch up some deals at the book fair. The line was long, and the participants battle-hardened. Furtive eyes studied the floor plans, deciding on a plan of attack. Slibel tried to strike up a conversation with a few of the bibliophiles, but they would not stoop to small talk with their rivals. As the doors opened, several of the volunteers were nearly trampled as the masses rushed in. With panic in their eyes, the old ladies who run the place fled like

gazelles on the savannah after sighting a pride of bloodthirsty lions. The hordes feasted upon the gathered volumes like hungry dogs on scraps of Grade A Alberta sirloin. The reference section was a particularly ugly spot, as a race for a Shorter Oxford resulted in a heavy tome being dropped on someone's toe. Slibel would like to encourage all Book Fair customers to show a little bit of restraint in their race for treasured tomes.

Send your Slibel along to slibel@mcgilldaily.com. It might even get in!

ON TRACK ON CRACK

ON TRACK: Moses. Turns out he did exist after all. Good work! **ALSO: Second Cup firebombers.** Just don't kill anyone, and it's the next best thing to a referendum for keeping Plateau rents down.

ON CRACK: Edible condoms being given away in the Brown Building. What, were they sold out of samosas? **ALSO: Kevin Spacey.** for appearing in tripe like *Pay it Forward?* Are you nuts?

Faces of the Convention



The Old Soldier



The Whippersnapper



The Earnest Interveners

Debate and Div

Quebec Liberal P

BY TYLER HARGREAVES
The McGill Daily

The view from the floor of the convention hall can sometimes get a bit dull. Last weekend was no exception as the Quebec Liberal

Party held its biannual policy convention. One of the principal goals of a convention is to update the policy platform which is the set of commitments that the party makes during an election for what they will do if elected. The McGill Daily assigned me to attend the convention undercover as a youth delegate. While policy debates seem pretty boring to most, and be assured that dull moments were in overwhelming supply, there was also some fun to be had and unique moments to witness. This is the rundown:

Friday night: Arrive on the 6 o'clock train from Montreal. Grab a cab to the Hilton where I'm staying and talk in rusty French with the cabbie who is eager to tell me about the new hotels they're building, the weather their having and something about zoning laws. Check into the hotel and then register at the conference which is à deux pas from the door of the hotel. I get a little plasticized pass with my name in it and a binder chock-a-block full of proposed amendments and assorted rigamarole for tomorrow's events. En lieu of sitting in on tonight's event which was a study of Quebec Liberal Party (QLP) constitutional amendments, I decide to go for a walk down to the Château Frontenac and Dufferin Terrace. I had not been to Quebec City since the winter of 1997 and had forgotten how mystically beautiful it can be. The view from Dufferin Terrace out over the river to Lévis is quiet and splendid. There is no one around on this windy night except for an older couple kissing intently and some Americans talking about how "Beeyootiful" the Château is at night.

Saturday morning: In order to deal with amendments in all areas of policy, there are four workshops being held simultaneously. There's one for health care, education, knowledge economy and one or two others. I figure the most comprehensible will be the one on education so I show up at 9:45 with my vote card ready and a bushy tail.

9:49: The moderator just spent four minutes explaining that the mic on the left was #1 and the mic on the right was #2. It took him longer than expected because he had to make sure that we understood he was talking about his left and right. Not ours. Because that would make a difference. My bushy tail is crimping.

10:05: Debate underway for ten minutes as to whether the amendments should use the term élève or étudiants. Or both. Or some other word referring to people in some kind of schooling. To be fair there is a

difference in which one you use depending on if you are referring to university students or grade school ones but couldn't we all just agree on calling them people in school or something. Why are we arguing this when we have 126 proposed amendments to get through? Tail almost gone.

10:30-11:30: We argue as to whether students in Quebec primary and secondary schools should have to take 25 hours of class a week instead of the current standard which is 23.5 hours. Or maybe we should just set achievable goals to avoid looking bad when we miss them. This is what the Youth Commission thinks so they propose twenty hours. The arguing goes on and starts to demonstrate something that was clear for the rest of the weekend. This debate, and the whole convention, is populated with characters; a great many of whom can be sorted. These are the groups:

Old Soldiers: These salty old curmudgeons have been down this road before. Looking often like a tough Farley Mowat while speaking a rough-hewn joul, these fellows (though women fit in this spot too, but less often it seems) ease their way to a microphone with an odd stagger while they study the text of the amendment. When they get their turn at the mic, they pepper their declarations with deliberately gaping pauses and arm gesticulations that would make a traffic cop envious. These guys have their view of the way things should be run and aren't going to let some slicked-hair whippersnapper screw up the province with some hare-brained idea.

Whippersnappers: The political-operatives-in-training all seem to be members of the Youth Commission. There are some whippersnappers who aren't members, and some members of the Youth Commission who aren't whippersnappers, but the streams do not lack intersection. These types generally came equipped in power suits of some kind despite it being Saturday morning. They all sit together and seem to distinguish themselves by cheering and clapping relentlessly when any one of their fellow whippers talks and by voting as a massive bloc on every amendment without displaying an inkling of self-doubt, second thought or free will.

Earnest Interveners: This is the catch-all category. Despite the characters and occasional dogmatists, there are some people who show up because they want to change the platform and hopefully change the province. Travelling to Quebec City from all over the province, the interveners gave up an entire weekend and a good amount of money in order to be here to change policy. And this is for a political party that isn't in power and doesn't even have a chance of being elected until 2002. Furthermore, once they are elected, ministers seem to use party platforms as

more of a guide than a set program. Ministers in any government pursue their own agenda and are always constrained by money, popular opinion of the entire electorate and the whims of the leader. Ultimately this is democracy's best opportunity for regular folk to change government's position but it is not a fail-safe method and so the dedication of some of these people is remarkable.

Hotties: While the convention could not be mistaken for a GQ or Vogue photo shoot, there were certainly a few instances of spotting some not bad-looking people. And though it sounds incredibly geeky, hearing even a moderately-attractive person argue articulately for their core beliefs in front of a room of 500-600 hundred people can get your pulse racing and increase the person's magnetism exponentially.

Saturday afternoon: The workshops went on for the rest of the day and I was getting tired of the debates in education so I made a point of sticking my head in every workshop to check up on the action. After that, I kept wandering and headed up to the main floor where the polls were for Jean Charest's confidence vote. I voted and headed back to the hotel. There was a scrum in the lobby with some little man who looked like a gangster but I had no idea who he was. I slid myself into the scrum somewhere between Michel C. Auger and a cameraman from CFCF 12 and held out my tape recorder. Eventually someone addressed him as Mr. Gagliano so I figured out that he was the Honourable Alphonse Gagliano, Minister of Public Works. He kept talking and reporters kept firing slightly varied questions but after a while my arm got really sore and I slid out of the scrum in order to get blood back in my hand. The scrum stopped and I went for my nap.

5:30: Hightailed it back to the convention to hear the speech and see the result of the confidence vote. The result was surprisingly high, 95.25%, and Charest's speech was good. He seemed confident and genuinely comfortable standing in front of this party that adopted him, or he adopted depending on your perspective.

Saturday night: Went out for a dinner with the delegates from my riding. Had a fine meal of chinese food and then retreated to the hotel to catch up on sleep. There was a party for the whippersnappers but I thought I'd be just as happy sleeping. The next day was more of the same except my ride left before the ending speech so I cut out early.

Trudging the halls of the convention as just another delegate is hardly glory work, but the chance to disappear into the crowd and watch people argue over issues large and small is a unique endeavour and one that requires few regrets.

versions at the Party Convention

Daily Reporter details his dive into provincial politicking and talks to Jean Charest about his weekend, the Quebec Liberal Party, and the next election.

McGill Daily: Most people at the convention just see you show up and shake some hands and give a speech but they don't see much else so I'm curious as to what else you were up to during the convention?

Jean Charest: I arrived in Quebec City on Wednesday and started preparations for the convention. We did meetings with the organizers to run through the schedule which was very tight because it is a TV event. On Friday night I showed up at the Congress Centre at about 5:30 and registered and went into the hall at about seven for the opening and after that I did the speech. After the speech I went back to the office to do some work. Saturday morning I was at the gym at seven and then after we actually took the photo for the Xmas card with my kids. Then during the morning I visited all the workshops. I had lunch with some friends and then we went back in the afternoon and had meetings with some people. I met with

the representatives of the cultural communities. Then we did some speech prep for the next day. At the end of the afternoon we had the results and after that we went back to do speech preparation. That night I had a dinner with the delegates from my area and their children at 8 o'clock. Then I went back to the hall at about ten for a meeting with the people who were working on the amendments to get a debriefing on how things were evolving. All through the day there are periodical briefings on how the debates are going in the workshops to give me a sense of where the delegates are going on certain issues like health care or education. And to see if there are problems with where something is going that the media may ask me about. There's constant feedback of what's happening.

Then late Saturday night we stopped by the party and I was back by twelve and in the gym by seven the next morning. On Sunday we had breakfast with the kids.

Daily: You had a great weekend and probably your best since you've been leader of the Quebec Liberal Party, particularly with the result of the confidence vote, but how will you carry that momentum forward to an election that isn't expected for two years?

JC: What was great for me about the result was that people didn't vote for the saviour of two years ago. They voted for the someone they knew. Someone they had seen at work for the last two years. And what was very significant for the success of the whole convention was the work that we did in the spring. It wasn't front page news because it's very much the nuts and bolts. We had seventeen regional policy conferences from mid-March to the end of June. I attended every one of them. I did about seventy fundraising events and then I hit the road again in July. That's what went into the preparation and the result was beyond my expectations. What's significant also is that we have started to define the basis of our platform. The membership of the party are getting what they want from the Liberal party. What they want is a forum for debate. And that hasn't happened for a long time. There is a real sense in the party that we have things under control. That we are driving our own agenda now. That we are the ones that who are, in certain areas, leading the debate. And they are controversial issues which is a good sign. We don't take that as something intimidating at all. Quite the contrary, it's a sign that we are ready to entertain new ideas and that's going to be critically important cause that's what politics is about in the end.

On the content point of view now that we come out of this convention we are going to be operating at two levels. There are going to be working groups and policy conferences. And on a regional basis we are going to have regional policy conferences to have a regional platform. I am going to continue to be very present in the regions of Quebec. That will be a big part of what we do. There are going to be changes in the critic responsibilities of my MNA's this week. There will be major changes. And the party itself will shift gears to get ready for an election campaign.



Photos by Tyler Hargreaves

Daily: What's your greatest strength against the PQ is the next election?

JC: I think our greatest strength is going to be a new vision of what Quebec can offer. I think that we are going to offer a different vision of the role of the state from a substantive point of view which I think will be very much in sync with what Quebecers will want. On the issue of taxes for example, my intuition is that Quebecers, by the time of the next election, are going to be looking for relief on the tax front because we are the highest-taxed people in North America. I think our strength will be the organizations in the regions in Quebec. We will have a plan for health care which will be a very important part of what we want to do.

Daily: Then what is your greatest weakness against the PQ?

JC: We have to build our organizations in certain regions of Quebec. We need to demonstrate that we are determined to defend the interests of Quebec which is a very fuzzy issue. It's one that is hard to pin down but that nonetheless is on the backdrop of every election campaign. So that will be a challenge for us to demonstrate that we are as willing and capable to defend the interests of Quebec in a different way than that of the Parti Québécois and to make it credible.

Daily: The encroachment of the internet is making French less and less relevant for young Quebecers. How ill you address that?

JC: Well, during the convention we had a good site. We put up a very good internet site and we had a whole chatting session during the convention with people from outside. We are going to use the internet and its a medium that is more and more relevant now. In regards to the French language and the internet, that's an area where Quebec has a real opportunity in the Francophonie to make a contribution. We are very much in tune with North American technology and we are strongly influenced by it and we are in the middle of quite a revolution. So we have an opportunity, as French-speaking North Americans, to be a

leader in that. We use it now, we used it at the convention and it is going to become more and more relevant so there's a real challenge for us to make it our own. It's going to be part of our policies, certainly within the Francophonie, to take advantage of our North American position.

Daily: Is legislation an option?

JC: No. There is nothing in the works now in terms of legislation. We're not going to try to legislate the language of the internet. I don't think that there is anyone who could reasonably conclude today that that would possible anyway. There's no way that it could be controlled.



V
O
T
E

28^e CONGRES
DES MEMBRES
CENTRE DES
CONGRES DE
QUEBEC
13, 14 ET 15
OCTOBRE
2000.

In this week's installment, we take a look at W.E. Gladstone Murray's racier side. Ever so handsome and sophisticated, W.E. was often seen galavanting about town with the most sought after debutantes. "I'm not sure if it's my subtle charm or my full-bodied moustache, but the ladies keep falling for me," Gladstone Murray wrote in his diary. "I take them out for a dance, we savour the finest wines and then, well, what can I say? Pip pip."

Among W.E. Gladstone Murray's more scintillating romantic trysts, he is rumoured to have boinked Eva Braun before Hitler got his grubby hands on her, and to have deflowered exhibitionist jazz singer Josephine Baker. Although F. Scott Fitzgerald refused to comment on the matter, it is also widely believed that W.E. Gladstone Murray's relationship with the Queen Mother was his inspiration for the Gatsby - Daisy Buchanan love affair.



Where it's @

Today: Online Comics

BY BRIE O'KEEFE
The McGill Daily

Today we shall continue our odyssey into the realms of unexplored cyberspace. Our subject today: comics. The internet is filled with enough independent comic strips to sink a ship. They range from the very good, to the very bad, but what makes these comics unique and worthwhile is the fact that they are the only readily accessible comics around that are intended for audiences above the age of fifteen. But let me stress again, some of these comics are extremely disturbing, not funny and just the venting machine some weird internet dude who wants the world to know how disturbed he is. That being said, let's get to the good stuff.

There are several comic directories online which have databases of links to independant strips. The most notable is bigpanda.net which holds hundreds of

daily comics organized alphabetically, by subject and by most read. My favorite would be pope alien, a little weird, but endearing. Another interesting database is keenspot.com which is a little smaller and more exclusive. keenspot is home to my all time favorite internet comic sinfest. If you want to go directly to the site check out sinfest.net.

Lastly let us consider the heavy hitters in internet comics. In brief these are: Redmeat.com - its witty, disturbing and addictive. Or The Parking Lot is Full (plif.com) this comic is like *The far side* with a slightly more sadistic edge. It comes recommended. And finally sluggyfreelance.com. This comic is about two slacker university students and a homicidal bunny. Need we say more?

Whats great about these comics is that they are free, they pass the time, and can make you laugh in a way that all those other mainstream comics can't. Feed your dark side. Worship the comic.

Wily Pennsylvanians Prey on Gullible McGill Students

Communications consultant Jocelyne Coxhead recently wrote The Daily to tell us about some super happy fun facts about Pennsylvania. Apparently, students at McGill aren't thinking about the Keystone State nearly as much as they need to be, so her company has been hired to stop this alarming trend. Herewith, a few notable passages from her chirpy letter:

"Last year, we found significant interest from university and college students who were looking for an affordable destination during reading week. Pennsylvania offers terrific discounts on skiing in the more than 175 ski trails in the Pocono Mountains region. Plus, it's only a 7 hour drive away from

Montreal, a viable alternative to a holiday in Vermont."

Hmm. Maybe the word viable means something different in Pennsylvanian. But it's clear that they've done their research, what with our reading week only four short months away and the complete lack of any good skiing north of the beautiful Poconos. Jocelyne then invited us to learn more about Pennsylvania in some remote hotel conference room where we would "enjoy an authentic Philly Cheesesteak" on her. To think our journalistic ethics could be compromised for a heavenly concoction of steak, onions and cheese on a lightly toasted bun. Ha!

The McGill Daily is holding elections on Thursday, October 19 at 5:30 pm for the following positions:

Mind&Body Editor (full position), **Copy Editor** (half position), **Office Manager** (half position)

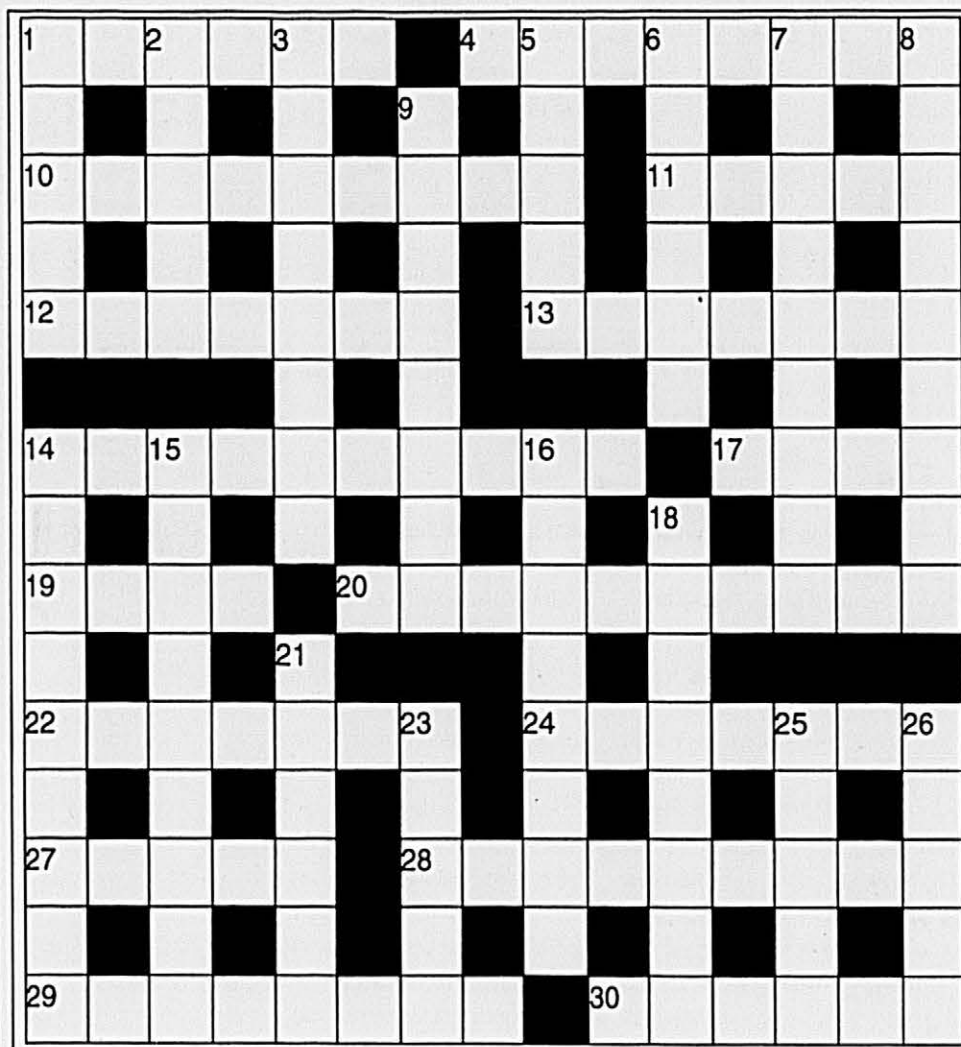
You must be staff* to run. If you're interested, come down to our office in Shatner B-03, and talk to an editor.

* Staff is anyone who has contributed 6 articles, 6 photographs, 12 hours of production, or any combination thereof.

Also, The McGill Daily is holding elections on November 2 at 5:30 pm for the position of **Features Editor** (full position). Same conditions are applicable.

THE DAILY CRYPTIC

STEVE BARKER
The McGill Daily



ACROSS

- 1 A fabric, whenever you wish (2,4)
4 Perishes in temperature that's most dizzying (8)
10 Enter and foolishly talk about El network (9)
11 Spanish man mixed up in swimming races (5)
12 Stubborn one recalled imaginary old kingdom (7)
13 Sovereign head of Pakistan in through - okay by me (7)
14 Famed astronomer finds carbon monoxide harmful; ten evicted

(10)

- 17 Cancel "Juan's World" after the premiere (4)
19 Native American as a resident of California (4)
20 Seventies dancing legends foremost of dreams faded (10)
22 Tickle a wild feline (7)
24 As a rule, American college to join league (7)
27 A sailor-turned-holdup man? (5)
28 Flirtation with every I encountered in cotillion (9)

- 29 Delay debut of "Slibel&Lander" (8)
30 Bit parts for actors in the lead, equally received (6)

DOWN

- 1 A record in Eureka (5)
2 Score by G&S in offstage area (5)
3 Measure a brief line in writing (8)
5 Swords cut top off tents (5)
6 Old apartment has air conditioning turned up from the beginning (2,4)
7 Lead of editorial more severe describing article in New Yorker (9)
8 Runners end up scoring home run; veteran gets triple (9)
9 Infidel sheltered by one violinist (8)
14 During Broadway musical, jerk talks idly (9)
15 Idaho city Conservative, Liberal et al. Engaged in horseplay (9)
16 Lose connection with family member, getting operator awake (8)
18 Thrive, like a white powder (8)
21 School furniture turned up outside - one student's head gets smacked (6)
23 Give money to occupant of Ten Downing Street (5)
25 Hat dealer robbed of \$1,000,000 in ship (5)
26 Bear that is left in yard (5)

LAST WEEK'S SOLUTIONS

S	T	I	L	E		L	O	M	B		S	T	U	B
L	A	T	E	X		O	R	A	L		P	U	M	A
I	D	E	A	L		D	E	L	I		U	T	A	H
P	A	R	K	I	N	G	M	E	T	E	R			
			B	E	E			Z	E	N	I	T	H	
C	A	S	T	R	O		C	B	E	R		G	E	O
H	E	A	R	I	N	G	A	I	D		L	E	N	O
A	R	L	E	S		O	R	B		E	A	T	U	P
S	A	V	E		B	A	R	B	E	D	W	I	R	E
E	T	O		E	E	L	Y		M	U	S	T	E	R
D	E	S	I	C	A			H	I	C				
		B	U	R	G	L	A	R	A	L	A	R	M	
A	W	E	S		C	O	O	L		T	O	K	Y	O
D	A	V	E		U	R	A	L		E	V	I	A	N
O	X	E	N		B	E	D	S		D	E	N	N	Y

Wainwright Lights Home Fire

Lady Martha talks to The Daily about music, Montreal and life

BY ZANDER ROSS
Culture Reporter

It was an evening of delicately balanced dichotomies, Sunday night. Whether it was the crisp wind that followed you around St. Laurent on this fall evening contrary to the warm glow of Petit Campus' intimate atmosphere. Or the assorted array of youthful onlookers intermingled with those who looked to be pushing their mid forties-and pushing it hard! The subdued but constant throbbing bass could be felt and almost seen pulsing in the smoky shafts of light from the upstairs Café Campus event which was quickly forgotten as attention focused on the meandering melodies of Martha Wainwright.

There even seemed to be a dichotomy in the young but talented artist's work; parts resembling the folk pop sound of Jewel, sans sappy lyrics, while other parts were of a melodically and instrumentally complex side, lending itself more to Jeff Buckley.

As Martha Wainwright made love to the microphone and guitar while occasionally drawing heavily on a fag, you could see that youth did not equate to inexperience. Her songs were diverse, yet each as strong as the next, at times light-hearted and jovial including "the car song" juxtaposed to the melancholy and pensive songs about lovers lost, including what is best named as "bloody mother-fucking asshole." During the course of the night, either on stage alone or backed by a talented four-piece band, she captivated us with a voice or a careful assem-

bly of cords and notes. The casual atmosphere of the show made small problems like being in the wrong key, the excess bass or missing a cue seem trivial and more like light comic relief than flaws in the show.

Martha Wainwright's ease on stage may be due to her upbringing. Daughter of famous singer Loudon Wainwright and Kate McGarrigle and brother of well-known Rupert Wainwright, her family was never starved for music. Martha has sung with and for large audiences with her father, and has helped in the recording of her brother's popular self-titled album released in 1998 (Dreamworks). I had the pleasure to sit down with her before her gig that night.

McGill Daily: First of all where are you from?

Martha Wainwright: I'm was born in The States but I grew up here [Montreal] my mother is a Montrealer, and a couple years later I went and moved back to The City [New York.]

MD: With such a well-known musical family, do you feel like you need to prove yourself or that you are under their shadow?

MW: Well everyone has to prove themselves musically if they want to be an artist who has any effect on people. I think my family happened to be very talented, all of them: my brother, my mother and my father. So there is definitely a high level of song writing ability that is sometimes daunting as a songwriter because there are comparisons in some of our works.

MD: Do you feel overwhelmed by their

success in songwriting?

MW: Sometimes I hear some of their sons and think "Jesus" and fell overwhelmed, but then there are times when they hear my music and say that they could never right anything like that. I'm just going to take a crack at it and leave it up to the audience, everyone has to prove themselves.



Martha at Petit Campus: doing the Wainwright thing

MD: I know there is vast age difference, but do you feel you share the same type of audience?

MW: There is an overlap and I think these are the same types of people that would be listening to them [her parents] in 1976. People who are musically aware, people who are not always listening to the top of the charts.

MD: The commercialized music in other words?

MW: But at the same time I would love to be in commercialized radio to some extent, that would be fun too.

MD: This is one of the hardest questions for some artists, but what type of genre do you think you are in?

MW: Hopefully I will be one of these people who defines genre, people who play and write music particular to themselves,

found influence on you, but who else had a strong influence on your musical growth?

MW: More than particular artists I had a chance to experience many other types of music, jazz and classical as well as other singers so I had a lot of notes in my mind and musical ideas in my head. But I think the people who have inspired me the most are people who just go out and do it, and if they can just go out and do it musically, then I can do it too. That's more inspirational to me than any one-person's material.

MD: Just because you had such a musical family, was it natural for you to take on a musical career?

MW: No it wasn't natural. It's difficult life choice, especially if you are not a huge success right away and it makes you question yourself. It's natural to have a family and be happy, not to have a career as a songwriter! Deciding to do this shit is not natural in any way.

MD: What's it like playing with your brother?

MW: It's great, very satisfying. He does all the work, and I get to sing on all of these beautiful songs!

MD: Your brother had big success with his album, will you follow and suit and put out an album in a more commercialized environment?

MW: He was signed to a major label with large distribution, I would not be opposed to that, but in the end that's just the beginning. Hopefully my music will be a long career, so if it is good it will be recognized whether it is on a small label or a larger one.

Laughing all the way to the bank

Spike Lee builds his legacy with new film on racism in America

BY XAVIER GAGNÉ
The McGill Daily

I love chocolate chip cookies. I have nothing against the sumptuous black nuggets of cocoa sweetness indented in the rugged white terrain of baked dough. Along the same line, I do not think of myself as racist. Yet, with *Bamboozled*, Spike Lee addresses once more the question of racism in America, and forces us to question ourselves regarding our ever-present stereotypes.

Pierre Delacroix (Damon Wayans) is a young promising Harvard-educated scriptwriter employed by an upstart cable network. After so many rejected scripts, Mr. Dunwitty (Michael Rapaport), Delacroix's "wigger" boss, challenges him to focus on his African-American roots to write a hip-

per, funnier, trendier show. Disgusted, Delacroix comes up with a script so absurd and racist he claims will break down the stereotype barrier. In come the future stars of "Mantan The New Millennium Minstrel Show", Manray (Savion Glover), a street-performing tap dancer, and his best friend and business partner, Womack (Tommy Davidson).

Incredibly, public and media alike rave about the new show. As Delacroix's production climbs in popularity, he loses his vision in a mix of fame, money and awards. Opponents of the show arise, among which are Delacroix's assistant, Sloan Hopkins (Jada Pinkett Smith) and her brother Julius, rechristened Big Black Africa (Dante Zeze a.k.a Mos Def). To them, the show must end.

In *Bamboozled*, Lee relies on the for-

mulaic tragic hero story; we explore our protagonist's rise and inevitable fall. Yet, Lee manages to keep us looking with ever-present witticisms and a continual introduction, and exploration, of secondary characters. Unfortunately, this is done at the expense of our main character, and, consequentially, we find it difficult to sympathize with him. This point is also emphasized by Damon Wayans bland performance, but Wayans is not alone; the quasi-totality of the cast seems to be performing right after a hard-fought rugby loss. I found myself white-knuckled, holding to my seat wincing in pain, during Davidson last scene. Luckily, Lee does a fairly good job of covering this flaw with some interesting and impressive cinematography, oft using visual cues to help convey the mood of a particular scene.

For *Bamboozled*, Lee returns to his most infamous subject matter: race in America. He criticizes the formation and retentiveness of African American stereotypes that arose through time via movies and television, although this criticism isn't quite as poignant as the way it is presented. Throughout the movie, Lee makes us smile and chuckle, but also makes us think at what we are laughing at, and whether we should even be laughing at all. As the movie progresses, we see a distinct difference between our "television-generated stereotype" laughter, and our "pure satire" laughter. Some people might not appreciate a two and a half hour guilt trip, and to be honest, it made me uneasy as well, but the whole point is to go beyond that uneasiness and admit there is still a racist in each one of us.



Confused? Heck, we're BAMBOOZLED!

Clenched in its Jaws

McGill's Player's Theatre presents a roaring delivery of *Lion in the Streets*

BY ADRIENNE LACHAPELLE
Culture Reporter

The slothful man saith, "There is a lion in the way! There is a lion in the streets!"

- Proverbs 26:13

According to our human nature we look to the evil in the world in an attempt to discover the obstruction that hinders our happiness. Often we are incapable of seeing the fault within ourselves or how our own slothful behaviour permits the lion to possess us and to run free in the streets. Judith Thompson has delved into this question of human nature in her 1990 play *Lion in the Streets*. However, Thompson does not simplify this inquiry by dividing the world into good

existence. *Lion in the Streets* does not suggest that we should hide from the brutality of life in the hope of staying out of the lion's jaws but instead Thompson propels her audience to another, more difficult solution.

Lion in the Streets is the first production in the "all Canadian" season at McGill's Player's Theatre; Judith Thompson's play is a fitting debut. A Montreal native, Thompson has devised a work that examines modern Canadian life in order to convey a pertinent message about human nature. Set in a Montreal suburb, this interpretation of *Lion in the Streets* unnerves the audience with a disturbing portrayal of numerous characters who are like the shades in the Inferno; reliving their crimes, torments and obsessions and delivering a reminder of what, in life, is at stake.

Isobel (Yetide Badaki) is a young girl whose ghost haunts the lives of her neighbors while she hunts the streets for her killer, the lion, in search of revenge or liberation. Isobel hovers at the edge of each scene, comforting and beseeching the other figures. Badaki's intensity makes Isobel's misery tangible: she is the omnipresent conscience of the entire play enduring the torment and contemplating the evil of every act.

Six actors, each with at least four roles, interpret the 28 additional characters. These numbers create an equation of powerful and professional acting. This cast is talented and the actors move effortlessly from one persona to another; they are merciless and drag the audience through the extremes of human emotion.

In one scene Rachel Charlop-Powers



Photos by Pierre-Alain Porland

Tightly wrought drama in *Lion in the Streets*

and bad. Instead the strong script and vivid characters present the myriad forces of benevolence and evil that conflict within the human soul and that are masked by mundane, everyday life.

Thompson's play is poetry and fury. The script is a balance of harsh interaction between characters and desolate monologues laden with imagery and raw detail that display the entire spectrum of human

Director Kareem Fahmy must be commended for his keen attention to detail, fluidity and craft. In this production he has "fiddled" the original script and this is evident because, under his direction, *Lion in the Streets* plays like a well-tuned instrument. The team of actors contorts in and out of different characters to give the play its momentum and to convey the complexity of its case.

plays Scarlett, a woman with cerebral palsy who describes her painful life and her one release on moonless nights in the embrace of her "midnight lover." One of Declan Brady's roles is that of Father Hayes, a priest tormented by visions and memories who is unable to overcome his pride. In another scene Rachel Horton takes on the role of Joanne, a woman diagnosed with bone cancer who wants her friend's assistance with a



The excellence of this cast lies in its versatility

suicide not unlike that of Shakespeare's Ophelia. One of David Baker's characters is Rodney, a young professional whose monologue reveals the torment of childhood teasing and his indelible memories of a homosexual experience. One of the last scenes occurs between Joan, played by Elizabeth Ruby and Benjamin, Nick Kovas. The scene addresses the sickening results of childhood abuse and explores the dark side of the human soul. The excellence of this cast lies in its versatility and its sharp rendering of the play's complex themes.

The work of technical director Mike Wozniowski and set designer Andrea Kennedy are indispensable to the force of the play. The stark set, the use of light, film and music reinforce the script and cause *Lion in the Streets* to roar, maw and hold its audience clenched between its jaws.

Lion in the Streets presents the failings of human kind but takes responsibility for its message by offering counsel and guiding the audience to a hopeful solution. The play shocks its viewer with schizophrenic scenes that break open the vein of modern life and show the poisoned blood inside. Through Thompson's work we become aware of the slothful person inside us all that blames evil on the lion in the street yet does not quell the lion lurking within his or her own heart. The cast and production team of *Lion in the Streets* has skillfully reproduced Thompson's message neither dampening its significance nor suppressing its immediacy.

Lion in the Streets: October 19-21 and 24-28 at 8:00 pm. Player's Theatre, 3480 McTavish, 3rd Floor. For information or reservations call 398-6813.

Rocking the Pequod

Moby makes it look easy at Metropolis concert

JONATHAN MONTPETIT
Culture Reporter

And who said it was hard to put on a good show? First, all you have to do is sell over 4 million copies of your album worldwide. Then, sell-out your eagerly anticipated show. Follow that by dazzling the crowd with a fancy light-show and by playing an extra long set that ensures your audience gets exactly what they want. Adhere to these

steps, and you will have a crowd in the palm of your hand.

Such was the case Tuesday night at Metropolis. Making amends for a dismal performance at last year's Cream festival, Moby had everyone going home with a smile on their face.

The evening opened with Hybrid, who true to their name, meshed synthesizer, drum-machine, and percussions to belt out catchy rave-like beats. The crowd, upbeat

from a quality opening act, cheered wildly as Moby took the stage.

The songs from Play have been sold a reported 700 times to various advertisers. Porcelain, his hit from the movie *The Beach*, is now to forever be associated with Bailey's Irish Cream. Thus suspecting Moby of being a proverbial 'sell-out' does not come without evidence. Moby defends his position stating that corporations serve as the only medium willing to exhibit his

music, given that major record labels balked at giving him a contract. Fair enough. But watching him play live, and you get the added sense that making good music comes very easily to this man. Sell-out or not his tunes are original, and Moby is simply confident of their worth.

That said, Moby hardly relied solely upon the success of Play to provide material for his concert. Along with playing songs from his past albums, he dedicated a series

of songs to "the original spirit of rave culture," a statement lost on the crowd comprised mainly of yuppies. He played an abbreviated cover of The Doors' *The End*, and even treated the audience to an acoustic version of Porcelain.

So Moby, I think Montreal forgives you for any past sins. You're welcome back anytime, provided of course, you bring that irresistible spirit that makes your music so sweet on the ears.

Hardly Harmful

Sarah Harmer takes soothing solo act to Cafe Campus

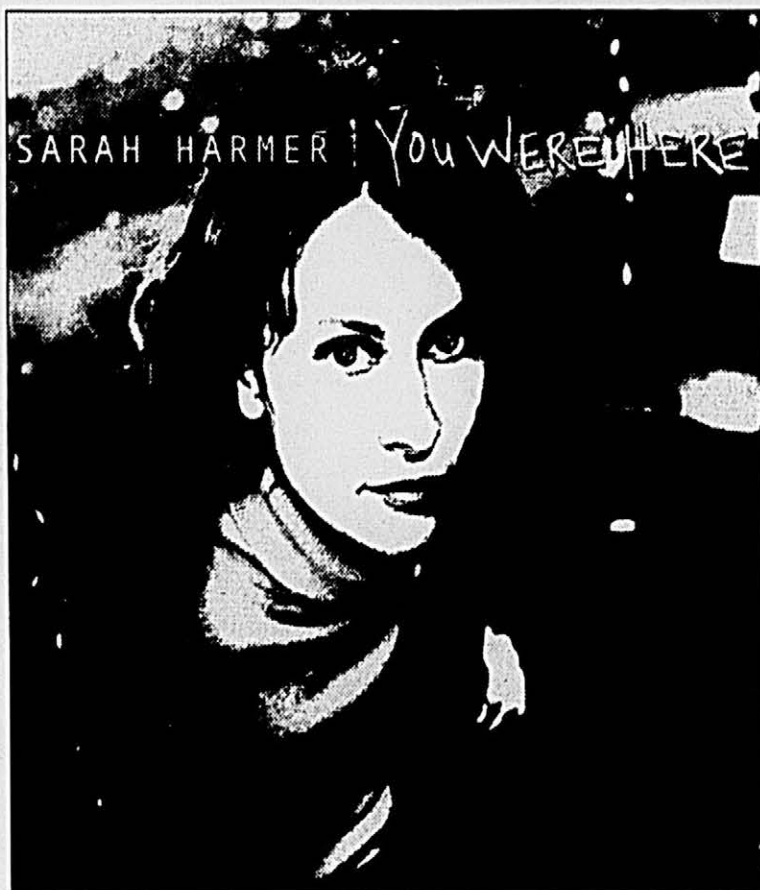
BY JEAN EDELSTEIN
The McGill Daily

Sarah Harmer was feeling a little off on Monday, having had a slightly traumatic experience whilst enjoying the Nashville nightlife in the midst of her current US tour to promote her new album, *You Were Here*. "Don't drink the draft beer in Nashville," Harmer laughed, "I had like a half cup and my brain is in pain."

Harmer is pleased so far with the reception that *You Were Here* has received, both in Canada and overseas. "This I kind of think of as my first solo album," she explained—her previous release, *Songs for Clem*, was a compilation of cover songs, whereas *You Were Here* is comprised of songs written by Harmer herself. Not unlike many a musician, Harmer's achievement represents the culmination of many long years of musicality. "I've been singing and making music for a long time, since I was a kid... I started playing in bands in high school. I've been writing songs for ten years."

Harmer's solo effort comes after a long-time involvement with band Weeping Tile. "I decided to take my acoustic guitar and go tour for a couple months," Harmer said. She's taking along Kevin Fox who plays cello, bass and sings and John Overcian who plays drums and guitar to contribute to Harmer's acoustic presentation of what she describes as "melodic pop." Her music also has a folk-y sound and poetic, slightly fluffy lyrics that are complement her sweet-sounding voice. Fans of Harmer's other group should be reassured that Weeping Tile is not done shedding tears. "We're playing at Christmas, our fifth-annual benefit Christmas Salvation Army Show," which is organized by the mother of Weeping Tile's guitar player in, Harmer explained.

Sarah Harmer is originally from Burlington, Ontario, but she is now a resident of everyone's favorite Ontarian town, Kingston. According to her, there is more to that particular hamlet than sheep, prisons, and inferior universities. "It's a city, it's far away enough from Montreal and Toronto that people live there and stay there and make something of the cultural scene," she commented. "Like any city, there's ebbs and flows of musical excitement, it's got its own kind of character. It has its own kind of identity, it seems like a real place to me to make music, it's not a bedroom community." Harmer, who lives in the countryside surrounding



Sarah Harmer's new release, *You Were Here*.

the bustling city, even claimed to find inspiration in her surroundings for her music. "I live in the country and I'm pretty inspired by it—fresh air and long walks and creeks and stuff," she said sweetly.

Whining abounds about Canadian bands that are popular in Canada but unknown in the US due to Canadian Content rules. Harmer, however, is not among this bunch of overly grumpy musicians. "I don't think that just has to do with CanCon [sic] in Canada—people are people, they like music," she said. Perhaps this statement has some coincidence with the success she's already had outside of Canada. Harmer and company have been enjoying their tour South of the border, going all over the States aside from the Deep South. "It's an imaginary border, in a way... you've got to do some paperwork to get down here, but once you get here, it's not a mystical land." Her music has also transgressed a larger, more watery divide: Harmer can now be heard in the UK. "You know, BBC One was playing it, and I'm getting some emails and stuff from people on my website," she explained, "I'm planning to go to England in January."

However, for now Harmer will have to be satisfied with her homeland: she'll be hitting Montreal on Friday and go on to venues throughout Ontario afterwards, heading into the West in subsequent weeks.

Sarah Harmer will play at Café Campus on Friday, October 20.

Don't join a cult.
Join culture.

IS THIS YOU?



**THEN YOU'VE WON
A PAIR OF PASSES TO ANY
FAMOUS PLAYERS CINEMA
(EXCEPT IMAX)**

Just drop by *The Daily*,
Shatner B-07 with Student
ID to claim your passes



Courtesy the Daily and Famous Players

**WATCH FOR YOUR
FACE NEXT WEEK!!**

THE MCGILL DAILY

Imported
Beers

**BRR
BIFTEK**
3702 St-Laurent

Specials

vodka
orange
cranberry
\$3.50

sangria
\$12.00

Rum & Coke
2 for \$5.50
gin & Tonic
2 for \$6.00

SHOOTERS \$2.50 each or 5 for \$10.00
Tequila • Whiskey • Peach
schnapps kamikaze • windex •

jagermeister • goldschlager
\$3.25

3702-3704 boul. St-Laurent 844-6211

Montreal's
complete
cannabis store

CHANVRE EN VILLE

3418 Ave du Parc • 845-4993 Since 1995

YOU LIVE TO PLAY!

Sainte-Catherine corner of Metcalfe • Peel Metro

**BIG screen BIG sound
BIG difference**

**For Movies & Showtimes
please call**

- Paramount at: **(514) 842-5828**
- IMAX Advance Ticket sales:
(514) 878-9100
- Group sales **(514) 878-4629**

Also featuring:

- **Bar des Étoiles**
- **Café des Étoiles**
- **TechTown**
Interactive Game center
- **Great Food Variety**
Mikes Pizza, Brûlerie St-Denis, New York Fries
Surf City Squeeze and Wetzels Pretzels

Ladies' Man Not Prince Charming

Latest Saturday Night Live vehicle tries the same old thing

BY MARK YOUNG
The McGill Daily

The Ladies' Man will do his best to assist you with your romantic queries: he'll describe to you, with his trademark lisp, one of his many raunchy and nasty sexual anecdotes. Unfortunately, he won't make you laugh very much.

In this latest of the series of popular Saturday Night Live sketches making it to the big screen, SNL veteran Tim Meadows stars as the 70s-styling, sex-driven Leon Phelps. He attempts to find his one true love while also looking to get his "Ladies Man" talk show back on Chicago radio after he is fired. Also, of course, he doesn't forget to have lots of sex on the side.

I'll get right to the point: don't waste your money seeing this movie.

As much of an SNL fanatic as I am (I freely admit that my favorite movie of all time is *Wayne's World*), *The Ladies Man* suffers from the disease known to plague SNL movies: the eighty-minute-skit-syndrome. The same jokes and sexual puns appear every ten minutes throughout the film, leaving you wondering if laughter is really expected to erupt throughout the theatre as a result. The silence that followed many jokes was doubtfully what the producers intended.

The failure of the film is in the terrible writing. The writers hope that the abundance of dirty sex jokes will do the trick. Unfortunately, even those in attendance at the preview screening who fit into the apparent target

demographic of young men failed to be amused. The cast, however, does a credible job of keeping the audience somewhat entertained. Meadows is very funny as the Ladies Man, and his sweetness and ridiculous sexual attitude can't help but make him likeable. He'll even make you chuckle once in a while.

Playing opposite him is friend and eventual love interest, Julie, portrayed by Karen Parsons (Hilary, *Fresh Prince of Bel Air*). Parsons arguably gives one of her best performances ever in this movie. How unfortunate. Her beautiful face lights up the screen and provides the film with someone sweet and not obsessed with sex. Old-timer Billy Dee Williams is the local bar owner and the on-again, off-again narrator, and fellow SNL star Will Ferrell plays the leader of a group of men who want to kill the Ladies Man for sleeping with their wives. The whole cast does their best to make you laugh. Alas, while the script attempts to be creative, it fails miserably with most jokes. You may well wander out of the theatre whining plaintively, "Did I really just pay 11 bucks to see this movie?"

If you are hoping for a *Wayne's World*, beware: *The Ladies Man* is no more entertaining than *Superstar*, one of the more recent SNL flicks that impressed few and disappointed many. This isn't a total loss though. When you have nothing to do and want to rent a lame SNL flick (hey, we all have those moments), *The Ladies Man* will definitely satisfy your extremely embarrassing craving.



You want him, don't you?

Attention Photographers!

Brie (the Photo Editor) wants to give each and every one of you a hug.

In other words....she lost all your phone numbers and desperately wants them back. So please drop by Shatner B-03 anytime and sign up on the sheet outside the door.

"If masturbation were clear-cut foresting, Greenpeace and QPIRG would have hunted me down and killed me by now."

Want more? Post Hippo, page 16

ALLIANCE ATLANTIS VIVAFILM THE MCGILL DAILY present

"Gidget goes ga-ga" Montreal Gazette • John Griffin "Hilarious" San Francisco Examiner "A Campy Smoothie" Mademoiselle

PSYCHO BEACH PARTY

Sun, Surf, And One Psycho Babe!

CASTING THOMAS GIBSON LAUREN AMBROSE CHARLES BUSCH KIMBERLEY DAVIES

A film by ROBERT LEE KING

FEATURING THE MUSIC OF LOS STRAITJACKETS TRACK AVAILABLE

Bravo!

You could win one of the 20 packages including the soundtrack and the poster. Simply write your name and address on the back of your theatre receipt of "Psycho Beach Party" and put in the ballot box at the participating cinemas.

www.psychobeachparty.com

COME BY SHATNER B-03 IN THE AFTERNOON FOR YOUR FREE PASSES. HURRY THERE ARE ONLY 10 PASSES AVAILABLE.

ARE YOU READY? NOW PLAYING.

FAMOUS PLAYERS CENTRE EATON ★ 6 CINÉPLEX ODÉON CÔTE-DES-NEIGES ★ 7 CINÉPLEX ODÉON POINTE-CLAIRE ★ 7 6

www.allianceatlantis.com

How to Get Through Midterms Without Really Trying

John Ortved is
THE ART DUMMY

So how did you midterm go? Ow! That hurt my jaw. Yes, this past week, friends of mine in Jerusalem had more fun than me. It's like someone packaged stress, pain and inconvenience then sold it in a giant suppository that you feel for the duration of your evaluation period. There was a bright spot in my week, well, three actually. One I'm not allowed to talk about, if I do, my roommate might discover the little business arrangement between him and our landlord isn't really in the lease. The second I'll get to in a bit; it involves drugs, midterms and a nervous breakdown I'm working out in therapy. And finally there was Lion in The Streets. Read about the play, then I'll talk about drugs and my traumatic childhood.

I was treated to a dress rehearsal on Monday night at The Player's Theatre (third floor Shatner, just follow the CocaCola and McGill For Sale signs). Witnessing theatre as the only audience member is a strange and wonderful experience, like throwing yourself a surprise party, or driving on the sidewalk. The actors make a lot of eye contact. And when you talk, or yell obscenities, they know it's you. But the play is great. Better than porno. It's reviewed in this issue, so check it out. I'm gonna pretend like I have a hip-hop label for a few seconds and send some mad shout-outs to David Baker for his portrayal of an angry and confused gay man. To the actors, crew and director, felicitations all around. (Special Note: Burt Nielson, Friday at Le Swimming. Bring the funk with ya, but if you don't, it's no worries; there'll be plenty extra.)

Last year around this time, I wrote something about all the ways procrastinated to avoid studying for midterms.

This year, I escaped the books by actually going out and wasting my time doing research for this. What I was looking for was information on what drugs we kids are using today to help cope with those midterm blahs. And when I say "Blahs," I don't mean it like Archie meant it when he wanted to express his moroseness over missing a date with Veronica, I mean "Blahs" in the old-fashioned, "My doctor confirmed I have a sexually transmitted disease," kind of moroseness. So here's the list. I graded them with letters, just like your profs would:

Caffeine: A+

Upside: While you study, you get to drink fancy coffees called moccaccinos, or café americanos.

Downside: Real men don't drink fancy coffees called moccaccinos or café americanos.

Mushrooms: C

Upside: Your biology homework becomes much more fun. Your answers, come the midterm, will seem at very least creative.

Downside: Just because you think Batman is writing your exam for you, doesn't mean he is.

Alcohol: C+

Upside: Your exam becomes no big deal.

Downside: You throw up on it.

Marijuana: B

Upside: Everything, especially if you study near a candy store or smoothie ranch.

Downside: Concentration is an issue

for some (the weak-minded), but that's where our next candidate comes in.

Speed: A

Upside: Can study and concentrate for days on end without wasting time on food or sleep.

Downside: Absolutely none. Except if you like eating, sleeping or talking coherently, oh yeah, and not having heart attacks.

Heroin: F

Upside: You get to play doctor like you were a kid again

Downside: If this is your study drug, you've probably got more on your mind than midterms

Cocaine: C

Upside: You get to snort something and pretend like you're famous.

Downside: You spend all your tuition money on Ajax and Rat poison.

Ecstasy: B

Upside: It's E.

Downside: You are the only one in your classroom dancing and inhaling Vicks Vapo Rub off your naked chest.

Crystal: F

Upside: You have a new addiction to brag about.

Downside: You do bad things with your toaster, stationery and pretty much anything else you can get your horny little hands on.

The point: Lion On The Streets has little to do with drugs and midterms; I know that. What I'm getting at is the profound power that a break from your work has over your ability to study effectively. Drugs are definitely an outlet. The Daily does not endorse the use of illicit narcotics in any manner, especially as some kind of recreational activity, but between you and me, they're great and

you know it. So do whatcha gotta do. Go dancing, have some sex, work out like you're an Olympian; whatever floats yer boat. My personal suggestion: enrich yourself by taking in a play.

Besides the fact that good theatre is more difficult to produce than Southern family trees that fork, this emotional bumper car ride (roller coaster is so cliché) provides the perfect deviation from the all-consuming task of memorization for regurgitation.

Midterms present a situation where stress becomes your reality. A good piece of entertainment can purge that stress like punching someone who talks during movies, or like the bumper cars we so love to drive. The play is your car; it is the fastest, roughest bumper car of them all and your midterms are a helpless little girl whose vehicle is stuck in the corner. All you need to do is look up from those books, point your car and push on the gas. The whiplash will take care of itself.

daily classifieds

Ads may be placed through the Daily Business Office, Room B-07, University Centre, 9:00-14:00. Deadline is 14:00, two working days prior to publication. McGill Students & Staff (with valid ID) \$4.75 per day, 3 or more consecutive days, \$4.25 per day. General Public \$6.00 per day, or \$5.00 per day for 3 or more consecutive days. Extra charges may apply, prices include applicable GST or PST. Full payment should accompany your advertising order and may be made in cash or by personal cheque (for amounts over \$20 only). For more information, please visit our office or call 398-6790. WE CANNOT TAKE CLASSIFIED ADS OVER THE PHONE. PLEASE CHECK YOUR AD CAREFULLY WHEN IT APPEARS IN THE PAPER. The Daily assumes no financial responsibility for errors, or damages due to errors. Ad will re-appear free of charge upon request if information is incorrect due to our error. The Daily reserves the right not to print any classified ad.

HELP WANTED

CHA CHA CHA!! CALLING ALL BRAZILIANS!! Telecom company seeking feminine voices to animate a friendship line. Great fun, good location, various shifts. 514-879-5870

Weight room instructors needed for a West Island fitness center part-time: evenings + weekends. Weight training knowledge essential. Call: Joanne Taylor 426-2468.

Reputable research house seeks English interviewers to conduct telephone opinion surveys with consumers. Knowledge of French is an asset. Downtown. Evening 5:00pm to 11:00pm and weekends, daytime starting at 10:00 am to 8:00 pm. Candidates must be available a minimum of 20 hours per week. Starting salary \$7.50/hour. For more information contact (514) 875-7570 ext. 257 on weekdays.

CLIENT SERVICES ASSOCIATE ChemDeals.com seeking motivated individuals to join our energized internet company in Old Mtl. Ideal candidate possess flexibility, desire to learn, and excellent communication skill. E-mail cover letters and resumes to jobs@chemdeals.com

Get On the Fast Track! Be your own boss and set your own hours. Call now: 928-6478 Excel Canada Independent representative.

WORD PROCESSING/TYPING

WHEN YOU JUST NEED A LITTLE MORE TIME!!!

Kathleen Business Services, able to produce quality term papers, essays, thesis, reports, etc. for \$1.20 per page. Call 514-487-1750.

Success To All Students

Wordperfect 5.1 Term papers, resumes applications, transcription of tapes. Editing of grammar 32 years experience. 7 Days/week. 15 mins from McGill. 30' from Metro. Paulette 761-7545.

French Writer Master Degree for your translations-corrections. English to French + tutor reasonable fees perfect and international French style. 514-485-9274.

MOVING/STORAGE

Moving/Storage. Closed van or truck. Local & long distance. Olt-Tor-NY-Fla-7 days, 24 hours, low rates. Steve 735-8148.

H O U S I N G

HOTEL PARC AVENUE. Fully equi. room avail in exch. for 25 hrs/wk of reception services (Fully bilingual). Flexible hrs. located close to McGill (Parc + Mt. Royal) Call aft 6:00 Sat - Thur. 274-5000 or e-mail JOEB@PARADICO.COM

LESSONS/COURSES

Master School of Bartending

Bartending and table service courses. Student rebate, placement program. 849-2828, www.Bartending.com

F O R S A L E

Household articles for sale: Odd dishes, 4-slice toaster \$8, small lamps \$3 ea, stove-top perculator \$4, 2 hand mixers \$4 ea, pictures, wall clocks \$3 ea, books, Coles' notes, caller ID box, planting pots, 3 area rugs \$20 - \$60 ea, wood X-country skis \$15, foo massage \$10, 2 electric heaters \$8 ea, curtain-comforter sets cheap..., cushions, blankets, more. Call (514) 630-1445 (located in Beaconsfield).

N O T I C E S

Giant rummage sale. St Matthias Church 1131 Cote St-Antoine, Westmount. Saturday Oct 21 10AM - 1PM.

V O L U N T E E R S

The CINEMANIA FILM FESTIVAL (Nov 2-12) is looking for motivated, reliable + bilingual volunteers. E-mail: cinemaniafilmfest@hotmail.com Fax: 878-0092.

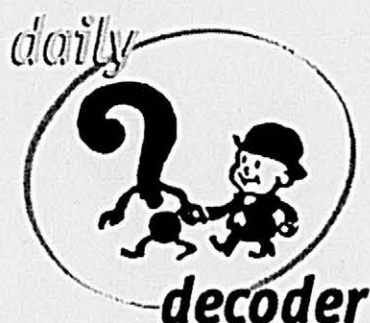
Looking for love in all the wrong places?

Try a personal ad!

CALL BORIS OR SASHA!
398-6790

GOT SOMETHING TO PROMOTE OR SELL?

GIVE US A RING!
ADVERTISING: 398-6790
THE MCGILL DAILY



BY BEN ERRETT
The McGill Daily

Can I still use my McGill email account after I graduate?

Yes and No. The bad news is that you don't get to keep the clunky old "po-box" emails, as the university claims those after you get your diploma. However, there are currently plans in the works to give all graduating students a Hotmail-

style webmail address for life, free of charge. These spiffy addresses, which are being tested with the class of 2000, give you the elegant john.doe@mcgill.ca instead. By going to webmail.mcgill.ca, you can check it anywhere.

Development and Alumni Relations officer Daniel Chonchol explains that this is a trend that started south of the border.

"Several American universities do this, and we've had occasional inquiries from graduates about keeping their McGill addresses. This seems like a good solution," Chonchol said.

Though it might seem like an easy opportunity for McGill's fundraisers to spam graduates, Chonchol says that's not in the cards.

"We want this to be done in the least invasive way possible," he said.

This project also allows you to check your "po-box" account on the web at webmail.mcgill.ca.

Does The McGill Daily want me to jerk it?

BY JOHN LESARE
The McGill Daily

If masturbation was clear-cut foresting, Greenpeace and QPIRG would have hunted me down and killed me by now. The debate over self-love heated up in the 90's, with all the hype around Pee-wee Herman and his play-pants and the famed episode of Seinfeld (Master of my own domain). As of late, many people seem quite rightly fed up with discussion of a topic which seems so inherently selfish,

self-fulfilling, and ultimately personal. But, as Woody Allen aptly claimed, masturbation is sex with someone [you] love, or at least, it ought to be. So if self-loathing and depression are items for discussion elsewhere, self-love and sexual exploration will be topics here.

The so-called "mainstreaming of masturbation," evidenced in the explosion of the personal sex equipment market, the multi-billion dollar cyberporn industry, the success of such skits as Conan O'Brien's Late Night "Masturbating Bear" and general references to it in all sorts of popular cinema and television (American Pie and Sex and the City to name but two), has led to its inevitable addition to the condition of "sex-cliché" which I discussed last week. I have come to realize over the past year and a half, that yes, the topic is still funny and able to be played for laughs, but hey wait, are we just skipping any REAL discussion of what ultimately can make us more fulfilled sexual beings, both on our own AND with others?

My ex-girlfriend was ANTI. Simply put, to her it was icky. And it was not just icky to her, but icky to think of me doing it. The effect, for us, ended up being a blatant schism in our physical relationship in which I was totally in tune with her, and with my own sense of pleasure, but in which she was handicapped to play any significant role sexually. Sad as it was, there was hardly anything I could do. I could play with her, but I couldn't help her play with herself. In essence, I couldn't learn about her sexuality FOR HER. Anyway, she got married this past summer and I'm still jerking it, so who knows?

Part of masturbating on a regular basis is just what Woody was talking about - self love! What a great idea! An article from October's Utne Reader, talks about the rise of the "quirkyalone," or that breed of person who is perpetually alone, supposedly by choice. Although the article discusses the emotional side of this social niche, the very real physical reality of being alone seemed neglected. So, what are you to do on that chilly Friday night in

November when you're feeling just a little too hot to fall asleep? Well, treating one's self to an unapologetic and soothing session of masturbation can serve to quell much that ails, including stress, depression and serve to stimulate positive hormones known as "oxytocins." These little puppies are also released any time another person



POST-HIPPO
THE DAILY'S
SHOCKINGLY FRANK
SEX COLUMN

touches you the "right way" and they are what largely keep us emotionally healthy and affectionate. You can check out all of the chemical jargon for yourself in Theresa L. Crenshaw's The Alchemy of Love and Lust. When push comes to pull, however, masturbation makes you a more sexual person, and ultimately improves your technique in bed and makes you more aware of your own needs so that you can get what you want out of him or her when sex comes along. It's about finding those little spots on your own parts which you like to have touched, and how. It is personal time which can be spent without the need to reflect rationally on anything, and a space within which you can be creative (music, candles, food, wine, porn, whatever).

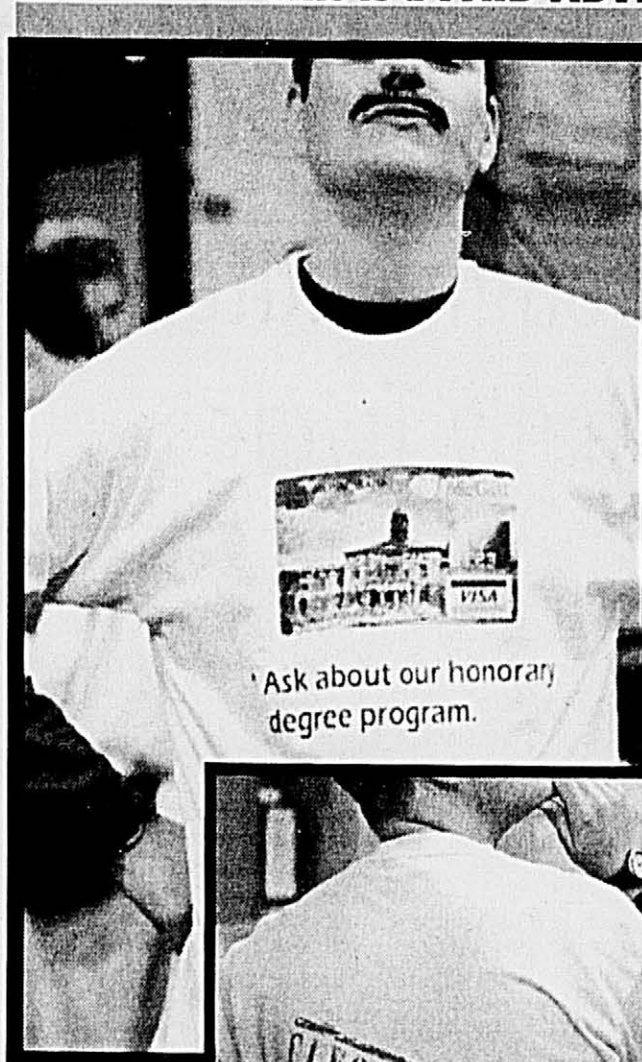
Now all of this might just sound like one big advertisement appearing here saying The McGill Daily wants me to jerk it, but really, I am just as opposed to an overindulgence and an ignorance of quality as I am to underachieving. An overemphasis on your own sexual pleasure by yourself ultimately leads to a disregard for a partner in bed. A recent partner of mine was able to entirely ruin a sexual episode by yelping half way through "fuck me, yeah fuck me" all the while rushing to push her hand towards her clitoris. Now while I understand and fully respect the virtues of clitoral stimulation, I also must point to the unattractiveness, in both men and women, of a selfish sexual partner. These are people for whom masturbation is about quick orgasms. By ignoring that a body other than yours is resulting in at least part of your sexual enjoyment you are inviting the "sex-cliché" to dominate your experiences. Escaping the cliché is the first step, but the next step is making that person the object of your sexual energy.

NEXT WEEK: Giving good head, the male perspective. Send me your oral sex experiences, both bad and great at laid@hotmail.com ATT: HIPPO and I'll share a few (anonymously) next week.

**Your midterm has been cancelled
due to lack of interest.**

No, not really. But keep reading The Daily.

This is a PAID ADVERTISEMENT



Ask about our honorary degree program.

Now you too can own
your own official

*Worn by
suspicious
looking
men in
mustaches
everywhere!
Stop by
Shatner
B-03 to
learn more!*

DAILYWEAR



Sketchy? You
bet! But
come see us
anyway!

Our dress code:

*We encourage
our employees to
wear clothes.*

*Want to be part of an optical networking
start-up with good latitude?*

Then join Tropic Networks and help build the next big thing in optical networking.

Go Tropic and you'll have the opportunity to push optical technology to a new level. We're a high-performance, high-energy, Ottawa-based company with an aggressive salary and stock option package (including new grads and co-ops!).

We have a place in the sun for **software and hardware designers**. What else can we tell you? It's simple:

- We're pre-IPO
- You'll work with the most talented handpicked team in the industry
- You'll have a bright future (Get it? Bright...optics.)

If you like our latitude, email us at jobs@tropicnetworks.com. For full job descriptions, visit www.tropicnetworks.com.

Tr pic
Networks

A cool place to work

tropicnetworks.com